

Proposed signalised toucan crossing: Honiton Road (Blackhorse Village) Broadclyst

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that:

- (a) the signalised crossing shown on C18034/003 included in Appendix II, is approved for construction at an estimated cost of £70,000; and**
- (b) the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment be given delegated powers, in consultation with the Chair of HATOC and the local member, to make minor amendments to the scheme details.**

1. Background/Introduction

As part of Devon County Council and East Devon District Council's ambition to progress the Clyst Valley Way, a signalised toucan crossing is proposed across Honiton Road at Blackhorse village in Broadclyst. The crossing will be a small element of the overall Clyst Valley Way route, and will ultimately allow path users to travel between Broadclyst, Clyst Honiton and Sowton village. The crossing would also form a junction point with the Exeter Strategic Cycle Route E4 between Cranbrook and Exeter City Centre. In recent years Blackhorse Lane has been upgraded to improve east-west connectivity on foot/cycle and this proposal would allow connectivity to this from Sowton village. A map illustrating the Clyst Valley Way is attached in Appendix I.

2. Proposal

This report seeks approval for a signalised crossing across Honiton Road in Blackhorse village (see Appendix II).

The scheme will include localised footpath widening on the southern crossing. The bus stop kerb line will be re-profiled to allow the recommended number of zig-zag markings, with the footpath widened to suit the new profile. High Friction Surfacing (HFS) and road markings on the approaches to the crossing will be installed with advanced warning signs with distance plates from each direction. A dropped kerb will be installed on Sowton Lane.

Whilst there may not currently be high volumes of pedestrians and cyclists travelling in the Sowton village direction at present, the crossing would improve access to and from the local bus stop, providing access for Blackhorse residents travelling to Exeter or to jobs at SkyPark/Exeter Airport and for people travelling to the Blackhorse pub and Women's Institute Offices.

3. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

Local members and Broadclyst Parish, Bishops Clyst Parish and Clyst Honiton Parish have been made aware of the proposal. Local residents of Blackhorse Lane, the nearby pub and Women's Institute Offices have been informed via a letter drop.

Local members have indicated that they are in support of the scheme. No other responses from other consultees have been received.

There have been historic concerns raised by residents of Blackhorse about the volume and speed of traffic passing on Honiton Road accessing new developments including Cranbrook and the Lidl Regional Distribution Centre. This crossing facility will help create a gateway feature at the eastern end of the village, helping reduce speeds of vehicles on the westbound approach or leaving the village.

4. Financial Considerations

It is estimated that the proposed signalised toucan crossing would cost £70,000 which incorporates a 10% risk contingency.

Funding has been allocated from the National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF).

5. Environmental Impact Considerations

Path widening on the southern crossing and on Sowton Lane will require some vegetation clearance. The vegetation clearance will be undertaken outside of bird nesting season to minimise the impact on wildlife.

Construction of the signalised toucan crossing will allow for a small element of the Clyst Valley Trail to be progressed which aims to provide Exeter and East Devon residents with an attractive, predominantly off-road walking and cycling route.

In the shorter term, it will improve access to the local bus stop and encourage the use of Public Transport.

The environmental impacts arising from the proposals are therefore positive.

6. Equality Considerations

The proposed crossing would enable pedestrians and cyclists of a wide range of abilities and confidence levels to cross the carriageway more safely.

7. Legal Considerations

To introduce a new or amended pedestrian crossing, a public notice will be required to be advertised in accordance with Section 23 of The Road Traffic Regulation Act.

For the High Friction Surfacing required for the crossing at Blackhorse Lane, safe working distances for some of the works will need to be undertaken under convoy-controlled traffic management with a 10 mph enforced speed limit. A Temporary Traffic Regulation Notice is currently being applied for to achieve this.

8. Risk Management Considerations

A stage 1 Road Safety Audit (RSA 1) has been undertaken and issues relating to visibility have been addressed through advanced warning signs and vegetation clearance. The section of footway on Sowton Lane will be widened at a future date when further funding is secured to enable the Clyst Valley Trail to extend to Clyst St Mary, which will increase demand on the route.

9. Public Health Impact

The proposed signal-controlled crossing will improve pedestrian and cycle crossing safety and encourage active and sustainable travel, increasing activity levels, reducing carbon emissions and contributing to general health and wellbeing.

10. Options/Alternatives

An alternative location for the signalised crossing to the North East was considered. This option was not developed further due to the limited space for a shared path on the Sowton side of Honiton Road. It would potentially require the removal of the bus stop, which would be costly, and this location would not be on the desire line for pedestrians wishing to access the bus stop.

11. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

The recommendation allows the first stage of the Clyst Valley Trail to be progressed, enabling cyclists and pedestrians to cross Honiton Road to travel to and from Sowton village. It will also improve access for pedestrians travelling to and from the local bus stop in Blackhorse Lane and provide a gateway feature for through traffic approaching or exiting Blackhorse village.

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Electoral Division: Broadclyst

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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Background Paper	Date	File Reference
1. None		

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sc/cr/Proposed signalised toucan crossing; Honiton Road (Blackhorse Village) Broadclyst
03 131119

Blackhorse Lane
Proposed Crossing

Devon
County Council



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