

Station Road, Barnstaple Crossing Facility and Right Turn Lanes

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) subject to road safety audit the proposed crossing scheme shown on plan 17938/02 in Appendix I is approved for construction at an estimated cost of £126,000; 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. Summary

To improve cycle links for active travel and to help reduce congestion on Station Road, the report seeks scheme approval to introduce a new shared cycle and pedestrian crossing facility with right turn traffic lanes on Station Road, Seven Brethren in Barnstaple.

2. Introduction

The Seven Brethren estate is a main retail, commercial, leisure and car parking area within Barnstaple and it is currently identified for new residential redevelopment. The sub-region's main rail station is located within the estate and it is accessed from Station Road. The estate includes the town's main leisure centre facilities and the towns household recycling site. Core bus and cycle routes run through the estate and past the rail station. Seven Brethren is also connected to the Newport Cycle Network, the town centre and to the Tarka Trail via a network of existing cycle paths.

A key route for cyclists and pedestrians is currently from the rail station along Station Road to the Longbridge and the town centre. Also from the east of Barnstaple via the Newport Cycle Network and Station Road to the town centre, the railway station and to destinations like Petroc College and the Tarka Trail.

Cycle paths are already in place along Station Road. But crossing points between cycle and walking paths are currently uncontrolled with pedestrians and cyclists needing to cross both traffic lanes between dropped crossings.

There are a number of entrances located along Station Road that serve commercial and retail areas. Station Road is the main access route to the estate from the A3125 and at core travel times the road can become busy, particularly as traffic attempts to

leave the estate at the end of the retail day. When traffic is heavy on Station Road, this can make it difficult for traffic to turn right into or out of these entrances causing more delays on Station Road which in turn can impact on the reliability of core bus services running between the A361 underpass, rail station and town centre bus station. The road is constrained in terms of available highway space. But opportunities have been sought wherever possible to acquire adjacent private land through planning to enable access improvement to be made along the route.

3. Proposal

The proposed scheme detailed on Plan 17938/02 in Appendix I, incorporates two main elements.

A shared use controlled crossing also known as a “Tiger” crossing, which gives priority over traffic to both pedestrians and cyclists when crossing Station Road. The Tiger crossing facility is being proposed just north of the junction with the road known as the Tesco’s link. The Tiger crossing replaces an uncontrolled dropped crossing point that is located just to the north before the B&Q car park entrance. The proposed crossing will link cycle paths and retail areas on both side of Station Road.

This second scheme element involves widening Station Road to enable the creation of a central area that incorporates right turn lanes for the entrances serving the B&Q retail car park and the service access to the rear of the Seven Brethren Retail Park. This road improvement required private land that was only possible to acquire by dedication through the planning process.

Subject to scheme approval construction will take place in 2021. Funding had been identified through S106 contributions from developments at Anchorwood Bank. The proposed scheme has been included in a successful bid for funding through the second Tranche of the Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF). As well as supporting this proposed scheme in Station Road, EATF funding will also be utilised to complete the cyclepath link from Anchorwood to the Tarka Trail that was approved by HATOC in 2019.

4. Options/Alternatives

An earlier scheme proposal for a Zebra controlled crossing and right turn lanes had been prepared prior to securing the additional private land. With updates to signing regulations over this period of time before land was acquired, it is now possible to consider a shared use Tiger crossing, which will be more suitable in this location for use by cyclists.

Alternative options have been considered for a signalised Toucan controlled cycle crossing. But this option could impact on the ability to include the proposed right turn lanes on Station Road. The earlier Zebra crossing scheme was subject to Road Safety Audit (RSA). But the latest proposed scheme for a shared use Tiger crossing still requires a final RSA decision. Subject to final RSA approval it may be necessary to make amendments to the scheme being proposed in this report.

For travel to the rail station from the Newport Cycle network a desire line also exists for crossing Station Road on the other side of the Tesco's link road junction. With the current private entrance and loading area to the rear of B&Q, it is not possible to accommodate a controlled crossing in this location. However alternative refuge crossing improvements are still being considered here as part of a separate rail station forecourt improvement scheme.

5. Consultations

Consultation has been undertaken with the local member and stakeholders through the Tarka Rail Forum.

The intention to introduce a controlled Tiger crossing will require the advertisement of a public notice.

No further public consultation is expected to take place.

6. Financial Considerations

External funding for the scheme has been identified through the EATF. Additional funding is available from S106 contributions already received by the Council.

Not building the scheme may result in the Council having to pay back money received from section 106 contributions specifically towards a crossing in this location. This could require repayment with additional interest on the amount held.

7. Legal Considerations

To introduce a controlled crossing, the Council is required to issue a public notice in accordance with Section 23 of The Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

When introducing new traffic schemes it is the County Council's responsibility to ensure that all relevant legislation is complied with. This includes Section 122 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that states that it is the duty of a local authority, so far as practicable, secures the expeditious, convenient, and safe movement of traffic and provision of parking facilities.

8. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

The scheme will have a positive impact on promoting sustainable low carbon travel in the town.

9. Equality Considerations

No new policies are being recommended in this report and therefore an individual Equality Impact and Needs Assessment for the scheme is not considered necessary.

10. Risk Management Considerations

The proposal will have an ongoing revenue cost for the Council to maintain the new crossing facility.

11. Public Health Impact

There will be a small but positive benefit to public health and road safety by supporting and encouraging active travel choices and access to public transport.

12. Reasons for Recommendations

The proposed scheme will support active travel and help to reduce traffic congestion.

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Electoral Division: Barnstaple South

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

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| Background Paper | Date | File Ref. |
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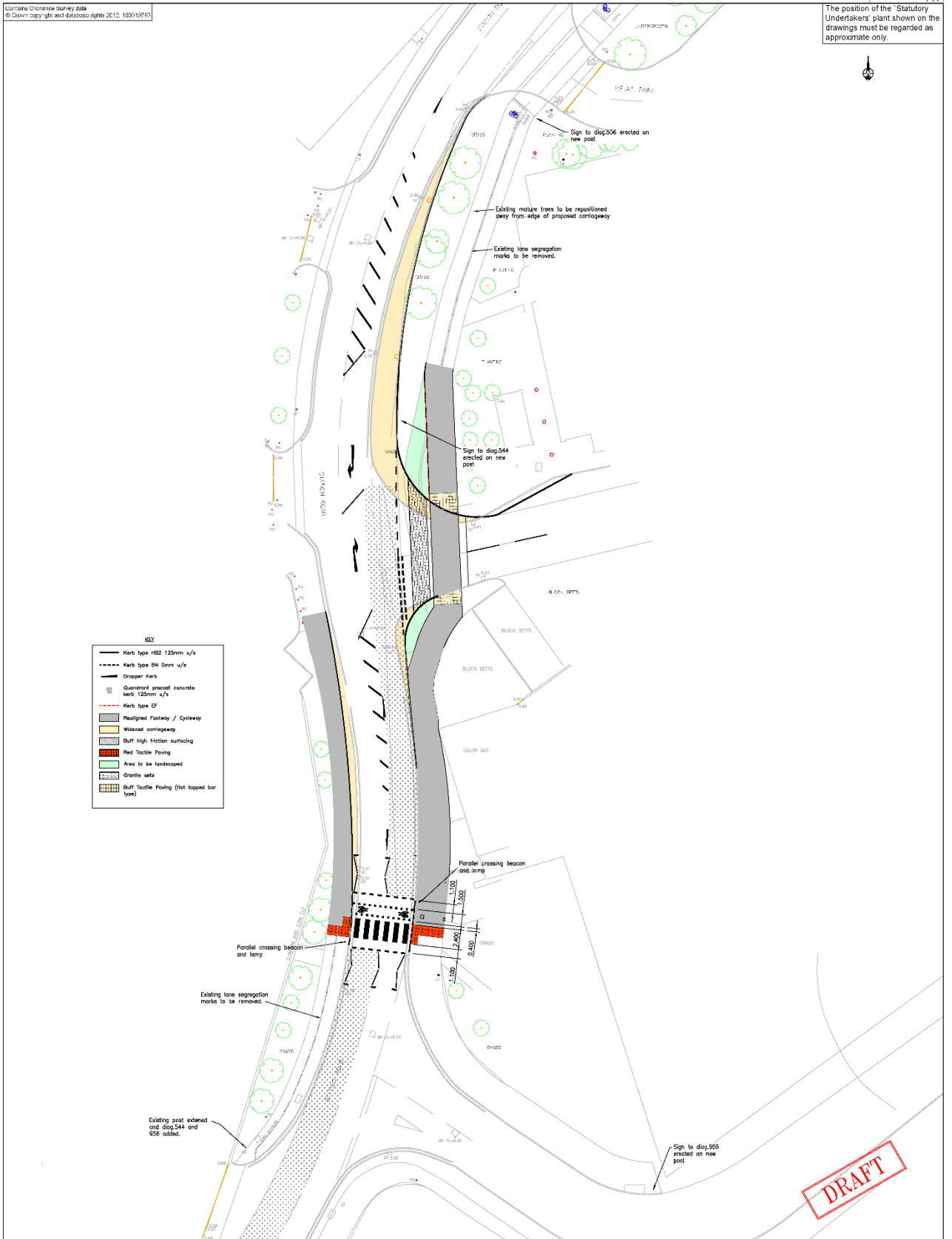
Nil

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Appendix I To PTE/21/8

Contains Ordnance Survey data
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The position of the 'Statutory Undertakers' plant shown on the drawings must be regarded as approximate only.



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| | Engineering Design Group Civic Centre, Ex31 1ED Tel: 01392 1501 Fax: 01392 722442 email: enquiries@devon.gov.uk www.devon.gov.uk | BARNSTAPLE LONGBRIDGE SOUTH WESTERN IMPROVEMENTS | COMMITTEE PLAN | Date: 04/02/2021 Description: Original Issue | Do not scale from this drawing in a hard or electronic format. No responsibility is accepted for the accuracy of any dimensions shown other than those which are explicitly stated or dimensioned. |
| | | | | Scale: 1:200 Drawing Number: 17938/02 | Date: MAY 2019 Author: K.W. Checker: P.C.R. |