

## **Chaloners Road Crossing, Braunton**

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 proposed Puffin crossing shown on the plan 20468/03 is approved for construction at an estimated cost of £63,000; 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**

The report seeks approval to upgrade an existing Zebra controlled crossing facility on the A361 Chaloners Road to a Puffin signalised controlled crossing. The scheme aims to support safer routes to school and to support active travel improvements in the village as part of the Braunton Air Quality Action Plan.

### **2. Introduction**

A Zebra controlled pedestrian crossing facility was first introduced on the A361 Chaloners Road back in 2008. As well as providing an improved pedestrian access to the public library, the parish hall and to the Vivian Moon centre. The crossing was introduced to help support school travel plans and access to the rear entrance of Caen Primary School. At school travel times the Zebra crossing was originally manned by a School Crossing Patrol officer. But this patrol has not now been in place for several years. At peak travel times there can be slow moving traffic heading south through the Zebra crossing to the main village traffic lights. Safety concerns have been raised about pedestrians crossing two lanes of traffic on a Zebra when one lane has stationary or slow moving traffic travelling inbound to The Square and the other lane is free flowing outbound from The Square. This situation can result in poor driver visibility of pedestrians using the Zebra as they cross between queuing vehicles on the inbound lane. A signalised pedestrian crossing was requested to allow pedestrians to cross both lanes of traffic under traffic light control and to enable traffic to respond to the signals rather than react to pedestrians using the Zebra.

Braunton has the only declared Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) within North Devon District. When an AQMA is declared it is a requirement that an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is prepared, which identifies measures that can help to improve local air quality. The current AQAP for Braunton identifies a range of measures,

including measures that support walking and cycling in the village and that support safer active travel to schools. To improve opportunities to encourage walking to Caen Primary School the Air Quality Traffic Working Group have requested that the current Zebra crossing be considered for upgrading to a signal controlled crossing. This request has also been raised independently by the Caen Primary school administration and by parents of children attending the school.

### **3. Proposal**

Plan 20468/03 in Appendix 1 details the proposed scheme. The signalised Puffin crossing will replace the current Zebra crossing facility in the same location directly outside the public carpark between the Library and the Vivian Moon centre.

It was originally proposed to undertake construction of the proposed crossing in conjunction with highway resurfacing works in 2020. Whilst it was possible to still incorporate ducting works underneath the A361 at this time, it was not possible during the COVID 19 lockdown period to procure the signals equipment for the new Puffin crossing. As a result the proposed scheme shown on Plan 20468/03 includes relining and high friction surfacing (anti-skid surface) works that will be required for the new Puffin crossing facility.

To maintain adequate footpath widths, a controller cabinet for the new crossing will need to be located on private land to the rear of the pavement on the western side of the road. This land is owned by the parish council. The site shown on Plan 20468/03 has already been discussed with representatives from the parish council. But this will be subject to the parish council's final agreement.

Subject to HATOC approval it is proposed to construct this crossing in the first half of 2021/22.

### **4. Options/Alternatives**

An alternative option can be considered to not implement the proposed changes. And to leave the current road layout and Zebra crossing. The existing crossing has had a good safety record since it was introduced. But the current Zebra crossing facility without a school crossing patrol is seen to be a barrier to its use by both parents and to other pedestrians.

### **5. Consultations**

Through the Braunton Air Quality Transport Working Group, consultation has been undertaken with the local member, parish council and with the head teacher of Caen Primary school. The intention to introduce a controlled crossing will also require the advertisement of a formal public notice.

### **6. Financial Considerations**

Local Transport Plan funding to implement the scheme has been identified under the 2020/21-2021/22 Transport Capital Programme.

## **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 small but positive impact on supporting sustainable travel. The measures will also support travel to school and travel links to local facilities.

## **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 proposed scheme includes locating a cabinet on private land owned by Braunton Parish Council and this will be subject to the parish council's agreement.

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

## **11. Public Health Impact**

There will be a small but positive benefit to public health by supporting active travel.

## **12. Reasons for Recommendations**

The proposed scheme will have a positive benefit in promoting walking and active travel within the community and will have a positive impact on helping to tackle air quality and meeting the objectives of the Air Quality Action Plan.

Dave Black  
Head of Service for Planning, Transportation and Environment

**Electoral Division: Braunton Rural**

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: James Anstee

Room No: Matford Lane Offices, County Hall, Exeter

Tel No: 01392 382727

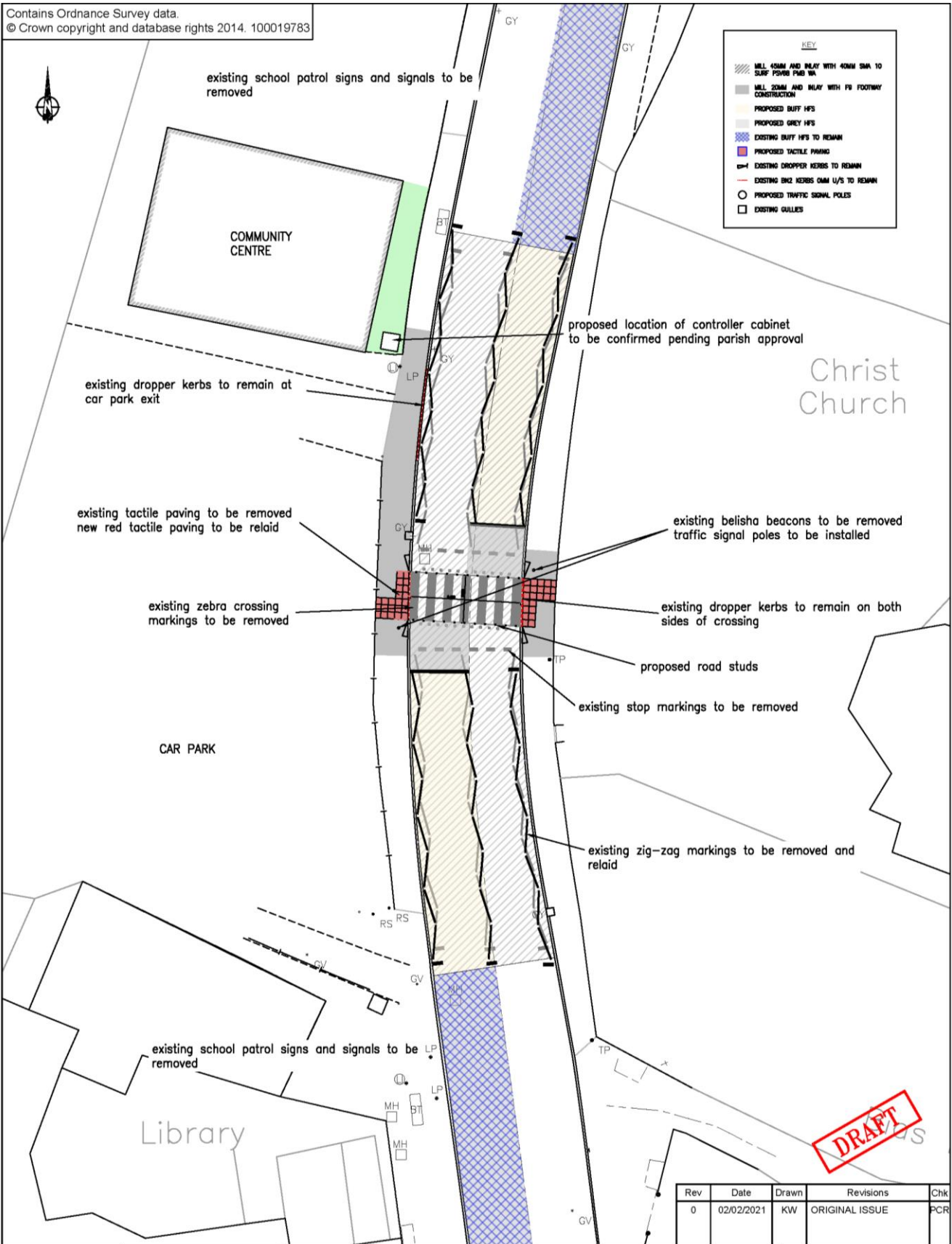
Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
------------------	------	-----------

Nil

ja170221ndh  
sc/cr/Chaloners Road Crossing Braunton  
02 220221

# Appendix I To PTE/21/10

Contains Ordnance Survey data.  
© Crown copyright and database rights 2014. 100019783



KEY	
	MILL 40MM AND INLAY WITH 40MM SMA TO SURF POWERS FWD WA
	MILL 20MM AND INLAY WITH F8 FOOTWAY CONSTRUCTION
	PROPOSED BUFF HFS
	PROPOSED GREY HFS
	EXISTING BUFF HFS TO REMAIN
	PROPOSED TACTILE PAVING
	EXISTING DROPPER KERBS TO REMAIN
	EXISTING 6M2 KERBS 6MM U/S TO REMAIN
	PROPOSED TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLES
	EXISTING GULLIES

**DRAFT**

Rev	Date	Drawn	Revisions	Chk
0	02/02/2021	KW	ORIGINAL ISSUE	PCR

<p>Devon County Council</p>	<p>Engineering Design Group</p> <p>Taw View, Barnstaple, EX31 1EE</p> <p>Tel. 0345 155 1004</p> <p>customer@devon.gov.uk</p> <p>www.devon.gov.uk</p>	<p>JOB</p> <p><b>AQMA CHALONERS ROAD CROSSING UPGRADE</b></p>	<p>TITLE</p> <p><b>COMMITTEE PLAN</b></p>	<p>Do not scale from this drawing in either hard or electronic format. No responsibility is accepted where this drawing is used in circumstances other than that for which it was originally prepared and issued.</p> <p>Drawing number: <b>20468/03</b></p> <p>Scale: 1:200</p> <p>Sheet: <b>0</b> of <b>0</b></p> <p>Size: <b>A3</b></p>
	<p>© 2021 Devon County Council</p>			<p>0</p>