

A377 Puffin Crossing, Newton St. Cyres

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 the Committee be asked:

- (a) to approve the proposed signalised pedestrian crossing (puffin crossing) as shown in Appendix I (plan number B23006CH to be constructed on the A377 in Newton St Cyres for a total estimated cost of £125,000; and**
- (b) that the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment be given delegate powers, in consultation with the Chair of HATOC and the local member, to make minor amendments to the scheme details.**

1. Introduction

There is a desire for a controlled pedestrian crossing on the A377 in Newton St Cyres because the primary school has been relocated from the south side of the A377 to the north. There is currently an uncontrolled crossing which is not considered suitable for this type of road and for the children using it. A School Crossing Patrol is currently in place at the start and end of the school day to help the children cross the road safely.

2. Proposal

This report seeks approval to provide a formal signalised pedestrian crossing of the A377 to allow safe crossing facilities for school children and bus stop users, as well as other pedestrians within the village. A review into the need for a School Crossing Patrol at this location could then be reviewed.

The proposal is to install a puffin crossing at the same location as the existing uncontrolled crossing. The bus stop on the southern side of the A377 will remain unchanged, with the bus layby on the north remaining in the same location but improving access with the provision of dropped kerbs.

The driveway to the west of the post office will be located directly on the new crossing point. Although this is currently the case, with the uncontrolled crossing, a signalised crossing would introduce posts for the traffic signals and push buttons, creating a physical obstacle for vehicles using the driveway. Vehicle tracking has been undertaken and the driveway would still be accessible, but would require vehicles to be driven across the proposed crossing.

Widening of the pavement on the northern side is required so traffic has the required visibility of the signals when approaching from the west.

3. Options/Alternatives

The centre of Newton St Cyres, in its current layout, has many constraints including the two bus stops, the junctions in close proximity and layout of Godolphin Close. Therefore, the feasibility of options for installing a controlled puffin crossing are limited. Furthermore, the centre of Newton St Cyres is in a conservation area and the area to the south of the A377 is a green village.

Four options were looked at which included relocating the bus stops and moving the existing pavements but the chosen option was considered to provide a safe crossing of the A377 while minimising disruption and costs by leaving the bus stops in their current locations. This was recommended in conjunction with a Road Safety Officer.

4. Consultations

The Local Member and Parish Council have been contacted about the scheme and any comments received will be taken into consideration as the design develops. Local residents have also been sent consultation information.

Contact with the resident whose driveway is accessed at the location of the crossing has also been contacted and discussions with him will continue.

5. Financial Considerations

The estimated cost of the scheme is £125,000 and this would be funded solely from Devon County Council's LTP capital fund.

6. Legal Considerations

Prior to construction, a public notice will be issued in accordance with Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

7. Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change)

The proposed scheme will improve walking infrastructure, encouraging reduced car trips for short journeys and help boost people's health and fitness.

There may be slight negative impacts due to vehicles having to stop and start at the signals, but vehicles already have to do this at the start and end of the school day due to the School Crossing Patrol and this is considered a much safer crossing solution.

8. Equality Considerations

The proposal will help all types of pedestrian to safely cross the road, particularly school pupils.

9. Risk Management Considerations

This policy/proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken/included to safeguard the Council's position.

No risks have been identified to date, but the scheme will still have to go through a Road Safety Audit. Initial discussions with a Road Safety Officer have taken place and resulted in the proposed option being progressed.

10. Public Health Impact

The proposal improves pedestrian crossing safety and encourages sustainable travel, reducing carbon emissions and contributing positively to general health and wellbeing.

11. Summary

The proposal supports the County Council's ambition of improving sustainable travel and pedestrian safety.

Dave Black
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Electoral Divisions: Creedy, Taw & Mid Exe

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/21/13

