

Zebra crossing, Main Road, Exminster

Report of the Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

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

Recommendation: It is recommended that the scheme shown on plan C21627/6 included in Appendix 1, is approved for construction at an estimated cost of £89,727.

1. Summary

The report seeks scheme approval to construct a new “Zebra” crossing on Main Road, Exminster. The proposed scheme will provide a dedicated pedestrian crossing facility serving Exminster Community Primary School and the wider community.

2. Introduction

The proposed location of the “Zebra” crossing is on a vacant School Crossing Patrol (SCP) site. The site has been vacant since November 2020. Despite the best efforts of the school to recruit locally and following an extended period of recruitment from DCC this post has remained vacant with no applications having been received. In addition to this problem there have been issues in the past with retention of Patrols at this particular site, the previous two Patrols having only remained in post for a short period of time by comparison with other sites in Devon. Where Patrols cannot be recruited locally the costs associated with making 4 car journeys a day to work for a total of an hour on site is financially unattractive for many candidates. The scheme to provide a new Zebra controlled crossing facility is being proposed as a permanent alternative to further recruitment for a replacement SCP.

3. Proposal

The scheme shown on Plan C21627/6 included in Appendix I incorporates a new Zebra crossing outside Exminster Community Primary School, between Milbury Lane and Deepway Lane and includes the addition of High Friction Surface, a reduction of road width at the crossing point and an increase in footway width on the school side of the crossing to ease crossing from that direction. The existing raised table will also be widened to meet the standards of a Zebra crossing. The scheme also makes Civil Enforcement easier with the Zebra markings on both sides of the crossing instead of current arrangement of School Keep Clear on the school side only. These combined measures will alleviate safety issues frequently raised by previous patrols at this busy crossing site that meets the criteria for a funded patrol.

The proposed “Zebra” crossing also has the additional benefit of accommodating a desire line outside of school travel time from residential areas in the East to the recreational ground, skatepark and Deepway Centre that is used by Scout and Guide groups by delivering pedestrians to the side of Deepway Lane that is served by a footway.

Subject to scheme approval, it is intended that construction can take place over summer holiday period to be ready for the start of the school term in September 2022.

4. Options/Alternatives

The surrounding area around Exminster Community Primary is very constrained with junctions and corner to take into consideration. Alternative locations were considered but these would not address the crossing demand and current safety issues for the school.

5. Consultations

Consultation has been undertaken with the local member, the school and board of Governors. The proposal of a new controlled crossing here will be subject to a public notice and advertisement.

6. Financial Considerations

The estimated scheme cost of the scheme is £89,727. The estimate includes an allowance for contingencies and also for night working to minimise disruption to traffic on Main Road Exminster. It is proposed that the scheme will be funded through the Local Transport Plan. Integrated Block, School Safety Schemes element of the 2020/21-2022/23 Transport Capital Programme.

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.

Modifications to existing waiting restrictions will require changes to a Traffic Regulation Order. When making a Traffic Regulation Order it is the County Councils 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, secure the expeditious, convenient, and safe movement of traffic and provision of parking facilities.

8. Environmental Impact

By promoting sustainable alternatives to travel by car, the proposal will have a minor but positive effect on vehicle emissions and the environment.

9. Equality Issues

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. The proposed scheme helps to enable pedestrians with a wide range of abilities and confidence levels to travel access school and other local facilities.

10. Risk Management Considerations

A controlled Zebra Crossing facility will have ongoing maintenance costs for Devon County Council.

11. Public Health Impact

Improved crossing facilities will enhance links between residential areas to the East of Exminster, the school and the Deepway Centre and recreation ground. This will have a positive effect on promoting healthy and sustainable travel within the community.

12. Reasons for Recommendations

It is recommended that the scheme be approved for construction to both support school safety and to promote sustainable and healthy travel choices.

Meg Booth
Director of Climate Change, Environment and Transport

Electoral Division: Exminster & Haldon

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

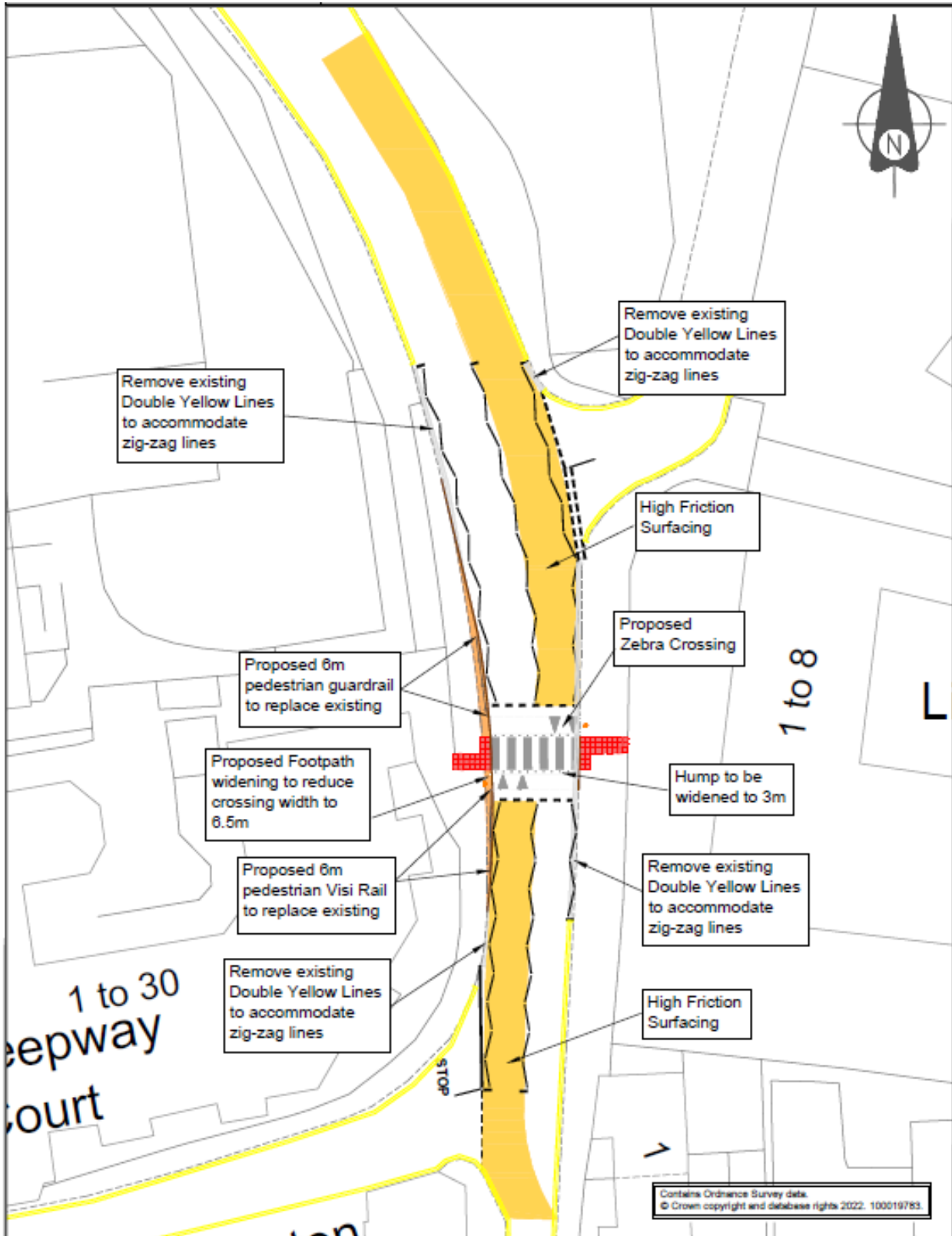
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Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
None		

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