



HIGHWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

3 October 2017

Subject Heading:	THE MAWNEY FOUNDATION SCHOOL EXPANSION Permanent Removal of Zebra Crossing in Como Street
SLT Lead:	Dipti Patel
Report Author and contact details:	Mark Philpotts Principal Engineer 01708 433751 mark.philpotts@havering.gov.uk
Policy context:	Havering Local Development Framework (2008) Havering Local Implementation Plan 2017/18 Delivery Plan (2016)
Financial summary:	The estimated cost of £0.001m for implementation will be met by PSBP1 and Expansion of Mawney School Project (A1845)

The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives

Communities making Havering	[X]
Places making Havering	[X]
Opportunities making Havering	[]
Connections making Havering	[X]

SUMMARY

This report sets out the responses to a consultation for the permanent removal of the zebra crossing in Como Street, Romford.

The scheme is within **Brooklands** ward.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee having considered the report and the representations made recommends to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services and Community Safety that the previously removed zebra crossing not be reinstated;
 - QP021/01.A
2. That it be noted that the estimated cost of £0.001m for implementation will be met by PSBP1 and Expansion of Mawney School Project (A1845).

REPORT DETAIL

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In the summer of 2016, construction work began for the expansion of The Mawney Foundation School which is funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency. Staff within the Highways service were asked by Learning & Achievement to remove the humped zebra crossing outside 108 Como Street to allow easier movement of the heavy construction vehicles into the construction site.
- 1.2 The zebra and hump were physically removed in August 2016. Residents were notified but it was not formally advertised, in order to give staff time to consider whether or not to reinstate the feature when construction work finishes.
- 1.3 Staff considered what, if any, improvements could be made for pedestrians walking to the new school. It was considered that Como Street does not require a zebra crossing. Apart from some rat running vehicles during the morning peak and the anticipated proportion of parents dropping children close to the school morning and afternoon, it is a quiet street only serving a

residential area and car park. Therefore, for the majority of the day, drivers could expect not to see many pedestrians crossing at the zebra and could be accustomed to not stopping at it.

- 1.4 It was noted that the junction with Mawney Road is excessively large and it was decided that instead of providing a zebra crossing, the bellmouth at Mawney Road would be reduced in size, making it easier for pedestrians to cross.
- 1.5 Residents were notified of this and the Road Traffic Regulation Act S23 notice to legally remove the zebra crossing was advertised on 18th August 2017. The work at the junction was completed on 5th September 2017.

2.0 Outcome of Public Consultation

- 2.1 By the close of consultation, five responses were received from Como Street residents, as set out in Appendix I to this report.
- 2.2 Only one respondent disagreed with removing the zebra crossing.
- 2.3 All respondents commented on excessive speed of vehicles and rat running on Como Street, Olive Street and Mawney Road.
- 2.4 It would seem that parents of school children are also causing problems with parking across driveways.

3.0 Staff Comments

- 3.1 Staff recommend proceeding with not replacing the zebra crossing, as advertised because it is inappropriate for the level of traffic and pedestrian usage.
- 3.2 Staff have observed the speeding and rat running issues, confirmed by the consultation responses, and are aware that the school also have safety concerns. Staff will therefore consider reinstating the speed hump at the same location in Como Street. Subject to securing future funding, staff plan to investigate the travel issues in the area around the school.
- 3.3 The school head teacher is proactive in promoting walking and cycling to the school and it is hoped this minimises the number of parents parking very close to the school.

IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

Financial implications and risks:

This report is asking HAC to recommend to the Cabinet Member that the previously removed zebra crossing not be reinstated.

The estimated cost of £0.001m for implementation will be met by PSBP1 and Expansion of Mawney School Project (A1845) as requested by Project manager.

The costs shown are an estimate of the full costs of the scheme, should all proposals be implemented. It should be noted that subject to the recommendations of the committee a final decision then would be made by the Lead Member – as regards actual implementation and scheme detail. Therefore, final costs are subject to change.

This is a standard project for Environment and there is no expectation that the works cannot be contained within the cost estimate. There is an element of contingency built into the financial estimate. In the unlikely event of an over-spend, the balance would need to be contained within the overall Environment Capital budget.

Legal implications and risks:

Installation and removal of Zebra Crossings require public notice of the intention.

Human Resources implications and risks:

None.

Equalities Implications and Risks:

The Council has a general duty under the Equality Act 2010 to ensure that its highway network is accessible to all users. The removal of this zebra crossing is not considered to negatively impact any type of pedestrian because the nature of the street is such that a zebra crossing is not currently viewed as the most appropriate crossing facility.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None



APPENDIX I CONSULTATION RESPONSES SCHEME DRAWINGS

Respondent	Response
Resident Como Street	Comments about work at Como/Mawney junction. Complaints about rat running and speeding traffic. No comment about Zebra removal.
Resident Como Street	Because of excessive speed in Como Street, thinks removing hump and zebra is a poor decision. Cars drive at 90mph day and night in Como Street.
Resident Como Street	Agrees crossing isn't needed but think speed hump is to address speed of rat running vehicles. Issues with ignorant parents parking across driveways.
Resident Como Street	Agrees with removing zebra but longer-term, need to address rat running.
Resident Olive Street	No objections. However raised many valid points and the need for traffic calming and preventing rat running. Provided their own traffic count data. Would like Olive/Mawney junction closed because of conflict with drivers accessing Tesco opposite junction and rat running.