Whittucks Road, Hanham - Proposed Zebra Crossing

Feedback Report March 2017
(Note – this report supercedes the September 2016 Feedback Report for this scheme)

Purpose of the report

The purpose of this report is to feed back the results from the recent consultation to introduce a zebra crossing in Whittucks Road.

The report has the following sections:

- Background
- Proposed scheme
- Method of consultation
- Feedback from the consultation
- Future programme
- Appendix A

Background

Section 106 developer funding has been made available to fund a zebra crossing on Whittucks Road.

- A site adjacent to the recently finished Hanham Hall development, and south of the Hanham Health Centre, was originally identified as a possible zebra site, and a proposal here was the subject of an online consultation exercise which ran between 14th January and 4th February 2016.

- South Gloucestershire’s Conservation Team objected to the provision of a zebra crossing in the proximity of the recently restored Grade 2 Listed Hanham Hall. Consequently the proposal was withdrawn and sites further south on Whittucks Road were investigated.

- A second site for a zebra proposal was then identified on Whittucks Road, immediately to the south west of Willow Road, where counts showed that a total of 116 pedestrians, including 48 children, crossed in a 12 hour period. Proposals for this site were the subject of consultation between 28th April and 19th May 2016.

- A Feedback Report based on the above consultation was produced in July 2016 recommending that the Willow Road zebra be progressed. However, the large number of respondents who asked for the siting of the crossing to be reconsidered, and representations made to the Council since conclusion of this latest consultation, also asking for the original site to be reconsidered, have made it clear that there is significant local demand for a crossing in the vicinity of the Health Centre, to serve the recent Hanham Hall development.
• Initial observations showed that many pedestrians cross Whittucks Road between Roman Way and the road accessing the Health Centre, as the footway to the north of the latter, on the east side of Whittucks Road, stops at this point.

• A pedestrian count carried out in July 2016 recorded 152 pedestrians crossing between Roman Way and the Health Centre access, including 23 children, in the 12 hours 7.00am-7.00pm. This total is significantly higher (31%) than the total recorded at the Willow Road site.

• In light of these figures, and the wide support for a crossing in the vicinity of the Health Centre, the scheme engineer and local elected Members have agreed to progress a proposal for a zebra crossing sited north of Roman Way, rather than the previous proposal at Willow Road.

• The Health Centre location was the subject of an online consultation exercise which ran between 6th February and 24th February 2017.

Proposed scheme
The scheme which formed the basis for this consultation proposed the introduction of a zebra crossing immediately south west of the Health Centre access.

Method of consultation
Details of the proposals including a plan and statement of reasons, were posted on the South Gloucestershire website as before. The Council delivered letters advising of the consultation to properties adjacent to the zebra site, as well as posting and maintaining notices on lamp columns in the area, for the 3 week period of the consultation. Local members, the Parish Council and the emergency services, amongst others, were invited by email to view the consultation.

Feedback from the consultation
The online consultation drawing was viewed a total of 90 times. There were 38 individuals and organisations that responded to the consultation either through the online questionnaire or via e-mail.

• 36 individuals responded, plus the Police.
• 25 respondents supported the proposal.
• 8 respondents opposed the proposal.
• Three respondents gave no preference.

The comments received as part of the consultation have now been reviewed. The comments/concerns are shown in appendix A.

Future Programme
The draft proposal for a zebra crossing south west of the Health Centre entrance will be subject to public advertisement later this year. This updated feedback Report supercedes the version published in September 2016, and will be published on the Council website, and forwarded to all respondents to the consultation.
### Appendix A

#### Comments received at Consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Officer’s response</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ever since the housing development has been built at Hanham Hall there has been increased demand for a crossing on Whittucks Rd. The pathway through the Doctors’ surgery has no right of way and there is no pavement on this side of the road. This crossing at the Doctors’ surgery near to the bus stop would provide an invaluable safe crossing for all residents, especially those school children attending the nearest primary school. It would also provide a vital link for the elderly or infirm attending the surgery or bus stop.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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<td>I have 3 children that walk to school and would use this crossing every day.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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<td>I would also support the location of the zebra crossing in its originally proposed position outside Hanham Hall.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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<td>I am registered partially sighted. I find Whittucks Road very difficult to cross. I am not happy walking to the zebra crossing as the foot path is not lit and is too secluded of an evening.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
</tr>
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<td>This is a far better location than the other two proposed previously.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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<td>I would use this crossing several times a week but not daily. This location is where I invariably cross Whittucks Road.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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<td>Fully support the proposal and the location of the proposed crossing. Very necessary since the new development at Hanham Hall, and for surgery users and people using the mental health facility within Hanham Hall.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>This would greatly improve safety for pedestrians using the local facilities as well as those getting on or off the local buses. It will also ensure elderly people can cross safely without having to go much further up the road.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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<td>When exiting Roman Way in a car and turning right past Hanham Hall Doctors Surgery, it is difficult to see traffic approaching from Hanham High Street due to the bend in the road. A Zebra crossing will help to slow traffic in both directions and will improve safety for all Hanham Hall residents &amp; users of Whittucks Road.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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<td>The location is useful for when you’re walking down from the high street at night and don’t want to use the footpath by the surgery in the pitch black. However if I was to get the bus home from town then I wouldn’t walk all the way up to the surgery and then back down to Hanham Hall I would just cross the road opposite Roman way after the bus has left and chance it. It would be more beneficial to be nearer that bus stop but I can see more people will cross for the surgery so am in favour of that as you can’t please everyone all the time.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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<td>Fifteen (15) responses were received supporting the proposals without further comment.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments.</td>
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As a resident of Whittucks road I have already expressed my concerns over the proposed Zebra crossing. They are as follows: I regularly observe that there is no need for a Zebra crossing as we already have one 80 metres up the road and there is an existing footpath running on the surgery side. - it appears that as the original idea proposed to have it further down on Whittucks was scrapped you have defaulted to this option as it appears you must spend the budget. Residents did not want it there and we don't want it here either. - the visual pollution of the street furniture/paint is unwanted so close to my house, and having a flashing yellow light outside of my house going constantly will affect my quality of life, As I will have to close my curtains constantly!!! - the increased traffic that will stop outside my house will result in higher noise, pollution, and privacy issues. I have 2 young children in the front top room who will be exposed to buses stopping outside. I now have to be thinking about child protection measures to ensure their safety and privacy. - we will have reduced parking outside my property! This along with the inconvenience is a reason a purchased My property and along with the visual pollution will affect the Property value. As a result I have taken legal consultation to see how the council may compensate if the proposed crossing takes place.

Response 2 – same objector
I live next to the proposed crossing, I see the foot fall on a daily basis and can only conclude that this is an unnecessary proposal as there is already a footpath on the surgery side of the road. Traffic is not heavy enough to warrant a crossing. Further to this it seems like an initial idea to build it further down Whittucks has been abandoned and as a fall back you have decided to put it at the surgery. It seems as if you are attempting to spend the money on the crossing at all costs irrespective of need. There is already one 80meters from the site which does not get used anyway. Further to this there is the individual needs of the residents that live in the Vicinity of the proposed crossing. All residents are not willing to that's you intend to have more intrusive street furniture directly outside of their house resulting in more visual pollution from the street markings and the flashing light. Further to this it will place restrictions on parking outside our properties

We are extremely concerned about the proposed new zebra crossing in Whittucks Road and would urge you to revise your plans. We believe that a more appropriate and safer location can be found for a crossing (if one is needed at all). The attached paper provides a summary of our arguments.

Attached comments;
We oppose the proposal for a new pedestrian crossing in Whittucks Road and in particular, the chosen location which we believe is unsuitable. Our concerns / objections are based on a number of issues: (1). We do not believe a new crossing is needed. (2). If there is to be a new crossing then a more appropriate location can be found (and surgery signage and / or speed bumps would, in my view, be a better solution in addressing the biggest single issue in Whittucks Road which is traffic driving too fast (and this applies to the entire length of the road)! (3). There are safety issues regarding the proposed siting (4). There are traffic congestion and pollution issues. (5). The crossing will negatively impact on the properties adjacent to the crossing and access for disabled inhabitants and their carers.

Thank you for your comments.

The existing crossing is approximately 160 metres north of this location. Initial observations showed that many pedestrians cross Whittucks Road between Roman Way and the road accessing the Health Centre, as the footway to the north of the latter, on the east side of Whittucks Road, stops at this point and diverts behind the hedge-line, it has no illumination and is not favoured by pedestrians.

The new crossing beacon would be fitted with a hood to prevent its visibility from neighbouring properties and reduce any visible impact. With the number of pedestrian movements during the day, the crossing would not increase traffic fumes or noise significantly, and would have no further privacy issues. Furthermore, the provision of a Zebra crossing should make walking more attractive and result in more people walking, this should help reduce pollution and congestion.

Visitors and residents would be able to park adjacent to nearby properties.

See comments above.

A pedestrian count carried out in July 2016 recorded 152 pedestrians crossing between Roman Way and the Health Centre access, including 23 children, in the 12 hours 7.00am-7.00pm. This total is significantly higher (31%) than the total recorded at the previous locations to be considered. The proposed location is therefore considered to be the appropriate position for a new crossing.
**ISSUE 1** – The new crossing isn’t needed There is already a crossing in place just 100 yards further up Whittucks Road adjacent to the surgery grounds. Appropriate road signs suggesting driving with care and directing people to a pathway through the safety of the surgery grounds to the Surgery reception entrance would negate the need for a further crossing and provide a better solution for the community as a whole – **SEE below diagram with the new pathway in red.**

**ISSUE 2** – Safety (too close to the surgery junction) The proposed site for the crossing is too close to the Surgery entrance / give way and we believe this is dangerous. It may also be contrary to Department of Transport guidelines which have historically stated that “crossings should be located away from junctions…..a minimum distance of 20 metres is suggested…..”).

**ISSUE 3** – Safety (reversing onto the crossing) The crossing is proposed adjacent to the entrance / exit to 62 and 64 Whittucks Road and this will mean elderly and disabled residents are required to reverse out onto Whittucks Road and onto close to the crossing. We believe this is a safety hazard and presents an unnecessary risk.

**ISSUE 4** – Safety (sandwiched between the bus pull in and the surgery entrance) The proposed site for the crossing is sandwiched between the surgery entrance and the bus stop and lay-by which we believe is likely to prove hazardous.

**ISSUE 5** – Traffic congestion / pollution Inevitably the proposed crossing will lead to queues of traffic building up at busy times and the resultant engine pollution carries health risks for local residents affected.

**ISSUE 6** – Good clear access for ambulances in emergencies The surgery itself often needs to call upon ambulance services and it is essential that these have unimpaired access – the proposed crossing could delay easy / quick access.

**ISSUE 7** – Impact on parking of care services to No. 64 Essential care services are provided to an elderly and disabled woman at 64 Whittucks Road and the siting of the crossing and the associated new “no parking” zone will not only disrupt the flow of traffic but take away important parking spaces preventing carers and equipment gaining efficient access to the property as needed.

**ISSUE 8** – Impact on the value of properties adjacent to the crossing People bought their homes before the surgery, pathway or bus lay-by; residents feel the addition of a crossing further diminishes the enjoyment / attractiveness of the location and the marketability / value of their properties. Several properties will lose the ability for visitors to park close by.

**Letter – same objector**

My wife has been suffering with Alzheimer’s for 10 years. We are confined to our downstairs area with 90% of our time in our front room where we live and sleep opposite the Surgery entrance. We would be looking directly at the proposed crossing with the noise, flashing lights, fumes & unsightliness. We have much added disturbance to our lives as it is. We live in a well-managed home, virtually a small hospital, we have earned the praise of “Mental Health” and Doctor for our good care and management of my wife’s needs. We don’t wish to cause my wife further distress, she needs calm & undisturbed rest. At present Carers need to park to give access to our home five times a day each day of the week. Delays with traffic can hinder Ambulance entry & egress in and out of Surgery Area opposite. At present there is no congestion if need & traffic is reasonably free flowing. My wife’s health needs are unpredictable & delays are a serious concern. Vehicles to service our provisions etc. need to park to deliver.

A crossing is proposed to assist pedestrians across the road, speed bumps and signs would not achieve this.

The proposed location is where many vehicles are slowing to turn into the Surgery or slowly emerging, southbound buses also slow down to enter the bus stop. It is therefore the best location on Whittucks Road where traffic speeds are being reduced by the existing traffic movements.

The crossing would not have a negative impact on visitors to the adjacent properties, as there is available space to park nearby.

The existing crossing is approximately 160 metres north of this location, initial observations showed that many pedestrians cross Whittucks Road between Roman Way and the road accessing the Health Centre, as the footway to the north of the latter, on the east side of Whittucks Road, stops at this point and diverts behind the hedge-line, it has no illumination and not favoured by pedestrians.

Department of Transport advises a minimum distance of 5 metres from a road junction, this is advisory and the proposed crossing is approximately 6 metres from the minor car park access.

The Highway Code advises entering a road in a forward gear, there is sufficient space between the crossings for a vehicle to reverse out of the adjacent driveway without conflicting with the pedestrian area of the crossing.

Traffic exiting the Surgery have to stop at the give way line and join the road slowly, and the bus stop is on the leaving side and of the crossing, it would therefore not constitute a hazard.

The number of pedestrian movements during the day would not increase congestion or pollution significantly. Moreover, installing a Zebra crossing should make it easier for people to walk rather than drive, which should reduce pollution and congestion.

Ambulance access to the Surgery would not be adversely affected.

Carers to the adjacent property would be able to park within a short distance from this property.

**The new crossing beacon would be fitted with a hood to prevent its visibility from neighbouring properties and reduce any visible impact. With the number of pedestrian movements during the day, the crossing would not increase traffic fumes or noise significantly. Moreover, installing a Zebra crossing should make it easier for people to walk rather than drive, which should reduce pollution and congestion.**
Had the present scene here plus the proposed changes been apparent 50 years ago we would not have purchased our house & those changes will certainly devalue the property. We spend every minute of our lives caring for my wife, trying to stem the tide, extend her days in comfort, doing all we can to provide the care & medicine needed, in the best possible environment. There is no wish to impair our efforts nor my wife's by disregarding likely impediments. I have an adapted vehicle with blue label for disabled passenger. Added to the concerns expressed that of taking your car out when my daughter's car is parked behind mine, by 9am each day. So should I need to go out i need daughter to reverse her car with additional observations necessary, Daughter then parks - where? - in order to resume care for a sick lady always in need of close observation & can't really be left unattended. I stress - I am not unaware of the needs of pedestrians, many of them have become friends with their children - they are the fit & infirm. Some I have helped cross the road when a need observed. So whilst understanding your proposals I simply state my serious concerns, & politely request their consideration. I think the proposals, were they to be implemented, would cause far more problems than they will solve. P.S. Please find enclosed a few other representations depicting concerns (NO OTHER CORRESPONDENCE ENCLOSED WITH THIS LETTER).

Unsafe location, believe pedestrians would be hidden from view behind parked buses (surgery side) to traffic heading north Already a pedestrian crossing exists within a very short distance of proposed location. Access egress from surgery already busy & a crossing on the corner would hinder the flow of the traffic With crossing on the corner of the surgery pedestrians would need to check 3 directions of traffic before safely crossing.

Crossing location would permanently stop permitted development of driveways for those residents directly adjacent to proposed location. If original proposal was better publicized more feedback would of been given I personally believe the Hanham Hall location was the best option that effects the least amount of residents

Given this is the 3rd attempt to location this indicates a crossing in this street is not wanted or needed by residents and road users, For 35 people average as indicated by survey to use crossing, it is really not worth the investment or necessary. This is an unsafe location given proximity to bus stops where parked buses will obscure view of pedestrians on crossing from overtaking cars. Will prevent adjacent properties widening driveways. Potential to cause friction with neighbours for those who will be unable to park outside their homes and having to park outside neighbours. Will affect property prices of local residents. As we are not directly next to crossing no amount of light shielding will stop orange light shining in our bedroom window.

Thank you for your comments.

The Surgery location is shown to be on the favoured desire line for pedestrians to cross Whittucks Road towards the Hanham Surgery.

The bus stop is in a layby on the leaving side of the crossing and will not obstruct visibility of pedestrians on the crossing. This location is on the preferred desire line for pedestrians to cross Whittucks Road towards the Hanham Surgery. Traffic exiting the Surgery are stationary at a give-way line and clearly visible from the crossing. Given the number of pedestrians crossing movements, there is unlikely to be a significant effect on traffic movements on Whittucks Road.

A proposed crossing on Whittucks Road has previously been consulted on twice before in 2016 and included two web based consultations for anyone to comment. There could be no question of a proposed crossing on this road not being publicised sufficiently.

The Hanham Hall location was previously rejected in the September 2016 Feedback Report.

Thank you for your comments.

The south bound bus stop is in a layby on the leaving side of the crossing, the north bound bus stop is opposite Roman Way and sufficiently far from the crossing to avoid visibility of the crossing being an issue.
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<th>I strongly oppose like many more will when people realise how dangerous this crossing would be for the following reasons: 1. People leaving the surgery (many on the older side) are not always having their eye on the ball when driving out due to illness news. I visit regular due to my wife’s ill health. Some drive out, not looking carefully with bus stop on left and Roman Way just passed for Hanham Hall entrance. (spend a day inspecting the site) 2. So now we will have ta crossing as well to look out for which I strongly feel will cause an accident. 3. The unfortunate tax payers living by the crossing many older and having health visitors losing their parking outside homes. 4. Why do we need another crossing with one just up the road? This needs looking at without rush or this will be a waste of valuable council funds.</th>
<th>Thank you for your comments. The proposed location is where many vehicles are at a give-way line, then slowly emerge onto Whittucks Road. The south bound bus stop is in a layby on the leaving side of the crossing and would not be a safety issue. Each property has parking for at least two vehicles, the crossing would displace four visitors vehicles at most, these would be able to park nearby. The existing crossing is approximately 160 metres north of this location. Initial observations showed that many pedestrians cross Whittucks Road between Roman Way and the road accessing the Health Centre,</th>
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<td>I do strongly object to the proposal to make expensive changes to place the new crossing site at either Willow Road or North of The Health Centre especially when the economic constraints on Local Government Finance are so severe. As I have said several times recently that the proposed crossing at Hanham Hall crossing is the most logical to meet the needs of the local population</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments. The Hanham Hall location was previously rejected in the September 2016 Feedback Report.</td>
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<td>There is already a perfectly placed zebra crossing on Whittucks Road in very close product to both the DRS surgery and Hanham Hall development. I am a pedestrian and frequent the area on foot daily. I do not see that further disruption in that area affecting bus and other transport is at merited. When I moved to the area it was readily accepted that adequate access and safe access was properly considered. There are enough safe places to cross the road. It is a long straight road with good visibility in either direction. + the zebra crossing already in service. I am opposed to the plans.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments. The existing crossing is approximately 160 metres north of this location, Initial observations showed that many pedestrians cross Whittucks Road between Roman Way and the road accessing the Health Centre, as the footway to the north of the latter, on the east side of Whittucks Road, stops at this point and diverts behind the hedge-line, it has no illumination and not favoured by pedestrians. Initial observations showed that many pedestrians cross Whittucks Road between Roman Way and the road accessing the Health Centre, as the footway to the north of the latter, on the east side of Whittucks Road, stops at this point. Bus and vehicle movements would not be significantly affected by the proposed Zebra crossing.</td>
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<td>I think it would be better slightly further down Whittucks Road outside Hanham Hall main gates or nearby. This would help with crossing for people on the estate and others taking their children to school or crossing over to get to the shops on Memorial Road as there is no other crossing further down the road. I feel this proposed crossing is too close to the doctors surgery and another crossing is needed slightly further down Whittucks Road and this one is too close to the existing one.</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments. The Hanham Hall location was previously rejected in the September 2016 Feedback Report. The existing crossing is approximately 160 metres north of this location, initial observations showed that many pedestrians cross Whittucks Road between Roman Way and the road accessing the Health Centre, as the footway to the north of the latter, on the east side of Whittucks Road, stops at this point and diverts behind the hedge-line, it has no illumination and not favoured by pedestrians.</td>
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