

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director of Enterprise,
Tourism and the Environment

to

**Traffic & Parking Working Party
and Cabinet Committee**

on

2nd November 2009

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Traffic and Highways Network

**Proposed Relocation of Zebra Crossing in Highlands Boulevard, Leigh on Sea
Outside Belfairs School
*A Part I Public Agenda Item***

1. Purpose of Report

To consider representations received following the advertisement of proposals to relocate a zebra crossing in Highlands Boulevard, 3m south of the southern boundary of No. 20 Highlands Boulevard.

2. Recommendations

That a zebra crossing be relocated in Highlands Boulevard 3 metres south of the southern boundary of No. 20 Highlands Boulevard.

3. Background

3.1 Belfairs School is undergoing major refurbishment work. Planning permission for these works was granted 14th August 2009. Part of these works include alterations to the existing entrance/exits to the school. It is also proposed to widen two of the existing exits one of which would be in conflict with the existing zebra crossing.

3.2 It is proposed that a new pedestrian entrance is created to provide a main entrance to the school. To assist the school in the arrangement of the new accesses consideration has been given to changing the desire line for student's entry and exit of the school on street. This has resulted in the proposal to relocate the existing zebra crossing to a more suitable location to afford better visibility for all users of the crossing facility.

A plan of the proposal is shown in Appendix A.

4. Other Options

None

5. Reasons for Recommendations

This scheme will result in improved road safety and assist in the delivery of the new improvements to Belfairs School.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision and Critical Priorities

Implementation should add to customer satisfaction by reducing concerns about road safety and provide a safer desire line for students to cross the road. Implementation will also support the Council's priority to improve Community Safety through improved road safety.

6.2 Financial Implications

The cost of construction is to be met through the current improvements that are being carried out at Belfairs School.

6.3 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications except to follow procedures for the implementation of the Traffic Regulation Orders.

6.4 People Implications

The potential reduction in the number of road accidents and improved safety around the school. By relocating the zebra crossing it will create a natural desire line and encourage greater use of the crossing in a safer location.

6.5 Property Implications

There are no property implications

6.6 Consultation

Following advertisement on 8th September 2009. One objection has been received from Mrs Clark, 20 Highlands Boulevard, Leigh on Sea. Below is a summary of Mrs Clark's concerns.

- Mrs Clark would have difficulty in accessing her driveway.
- Mrs Clark has concerns with regard to the position of the relocated zebra crossing and the visibility sightlines.

Mrs Clark's letter is attached for reference.

The council has contacted Mrs Clark with regard to the issues raised regarding entering/exiting her property and suggested an alteration to her frontage to create an additional access at the Council's expense. However, Mrs Clark did not wish to pursue this option.

The other items raised by Mrs Clark have been addressed by an independent safety audit review of the proposals which we are satisfied with.

It is proposed that, if the scheme is supported for implementation, work can be carried out in Mid November 2009.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

The proposal will aid those with certain limitations on physical mobility by providing a safer, formalised crossing point across a busy distributor route.

6.8 Risk Assessment

A formal and independent Safety Audit has been carried out with regard to the relocation of the zebra crossing and has not highlighted any major concerns with the relocation.

6.9 Value for Money

The highway works are being funded through Belfairs School regeneration improvements. These works will be supervised by the Council's Enterprise, Tourism & Environment department.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

Community safety will directly benefit through the improvement to road safety.

6.11 Environmental Impact

There will be a local environmental improvement through the ability of pedestrians to cross this busy route more safely. This will benefit school children and the elderly. By providing a safer and more useable crossing facility, it is hoped that this will encourage more pedestrian movement and reduce the number of car journeys and will promote health & well being.

7. **Background Papers**

None

8. **Appendices**

Appendix A: Plan of proposals

Appendix B: Mrs Clark, letter of objection