



SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

Cabinet Highways Committee

9

Report of: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PLACE

Date: 9th June 2011

Subject: Chaucer Road Pedestrian Crossing

Author of Report: Simon Botterill 273 6167

Summary:

This report informs members of the need to re-consult the residents of Chaucer Road regarding the location of a proposed signal controlled pedestrian crossing and to report the results of that consultation.

To recommend a location for the crossing

Reasons for Recommendations:

The provision of a signal controlled pedestrian crossing is in compliance with the granted planning permission and will provide a safe crossing point for people travelling by foot to and from the District Centre.

The location recommended, outside number 33, impacts least on the street as a whole and mitigation measure can be taken to minimise the effects on that resident.

Recommendations:

Approve the location of the crossing outside number 33 and instruct officers to make reasonable adjustments to the crossing location and design such that its impact is minimised.

Instruct officers to liaise with Asda, and their contractors, to ensure that the verge and footway are suitably amended to provide additional parking opportunities.

Request officers to inform the Chaucer Road residents of Members' decision

Background Papers: NONE

Category of Report: OPEN

Statutory and Council Policy Checklist

Financial Implications
YES/NO Cleared by: Sent 12 May 2011
Legal Implications
YES Cleared by: Julian Ward 12 May 2011
Equality of Opportunity Implications
YES Cleared by: Ian Oldershaw 12 May 2011
Tackling Health Inequalities Implications
YES/NO
Human rights Implications
YES/NO:
Environmental and Sustainability implications
YES/NO
Economic impact
YES/NO
Community safety implications
YES/NO
Human resources implications
YES/NO
Property implications
YES/NO
Area(s) affected
Environment and Transport
Relevant Cabinet Portfolio Leader
Councillor Leigh Bramall
Relevant Scrutiny Committee if decision called in
Is the item a matter which is reserved for approval by the City Council?
NO
Press release
YES/NO

CHAUCER ROAD PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs members of the need to re-consult the residents Chaucer Road regarding the location of a proposed signal controlled pedestrian crossing and to report the results of that consultation.
- 1.2 To recommend a location for the crossing

2.0 WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR SHEFFIELD PEOPLE

- 2.1 The proposal for a crossing on Chaucer Road has been developed to address the requirements of certain conditions applied to the planning consent (09/03952/FUL) for the new ASDA Store at Chaucer which was granted on 23rd June 2010. The Developer and Council Officers have developed measures with a view to satisfying “City of Opportunity” priorities to empower residents by incorporating their aspirations in the design of their streets. This report contributes to “putting the customer first” by responding to the views expressed during the public consultation exercises.
- 2.2 The crossing will also contribute to the “Protecting and Enhancing the Environment” objective of the Council’s Corporate Plan “A City of Opportunity”, particularly the “Safer Roads” priority, in that it will provide a safe facility across a busy B class road. This road will be the primary entry route for traffic to the new ASDA store. The construction of the ASDA store is a central plank of the overall District Centre strategy of rejuvenation, and linked to the other facilities, also being provided, should also reduce the number of journeys undertaken by car.

3.0 OUTCOME AND SUSTAINABILITY

- 3.1 The provision of a crossing will satisfy one of the conditions placed upon ASDA by the Planning Committee.
- 3.2 The proposals are aimed at providing a safe and attractive pedestrian crossing to encourage people to walking to the store, the district centre and the school. This will help reduce dependency on the private car, whilst encouraging more healthy physical activity amongst the local community

4.0 REPORT

Background and the Re-consultation Process

- 4.1 In October 2010 a public consultation was carried out by officers. The consultation asked local people to comment on all the highways works that were being proposed to comply with planning requirements. The object of the consultation was to ensure that people were fully informed of the proposals and to give them an opportunity to raise specific concerns.

- 4.2 Where people wanted amendments and where they could be accommodated, whilst still satisfying the planning conditions, then such changes were made. The outcome of the consultation was presented to Members of the Cabinet Highways Committee on 13th January 2011. The report was approved without any changes being made.
- 4.3 One approved element of the proposed works was the provision of a signal controlled pedestrian crossing on Chaucer Road. Unfortunately, when officers reacted to public comment and agreed to change the location of this crossing, they failed to notify the residents that would then be directly affected.
- 4.4 When works commenced on site, the resident at number 33 Chaucer Road immediately objected and contacted the Council. ASDA's contractor stopped work on the crossing and an officer went to see the resident to establish the situation. It was at this point that the omission was discovered. The Head of Transport and Highways and the Traffic Management Team Manager visited the resident to apologise and undertook to have the decision on this element of the proposals formally revisited by undertaking a re-consultation on the location of the crossing. This was confirmed with the Cabinet Member for Transport.
- 4.5 On the 8th April, a consultation letter was sent to each address on Chaucer Road between Chaucer Close and Deerlands Avenue. The consultation showed two potential locations for the crossing; firstly where it was shown on the original consultation and secondly where it had been moved to. People were invited to choose the location where they thought the crossing should go and to give reasons for their choice. A copy of the consultation letter, plan and questionnaire are included at Appendix A.
- 4.6 The original consultation location was outside numbers 41 and 43. This location was chosen by ASDA's engineers and was based on it being the first place that a crossing could be located travelling away from the roundabout at Deerlands Avenue. This placed it close to the new pedestrian access to the store. Locating the crossing at the roundabout was discounted partly due to safety concerns and partly due to the potential for creating congestion. The alternative location, outside number 33, was chosen as being the next suitable location along Chaucer Road.
- 4.7 It is pertinent to note that most properties on Chaucer Road have off-road parking space and footway crossings and therefore locations suitable to place a crossing are limited. Both locations are on a section of road that do not obstruct the existing crossing points and where there is adequate visibility of the crossing for approaching drivers. At both crossing locations, 8 sets of zig-zags markings have been shown. It is considered that any parking, on the verge, would limit drivers' view of people standing at the crossing and potentially obstruct the signal heads, thus reducing safety. Clearly, the impact on parking is a significant consideration about the acceptability of a crossing for residents. ASDA have agreed to fund the conversion of the verges to hard-standing, away from the crossing point, to allow residents and their visitors to park close to their property. The whole of Chaucer Road will have an 'At Any Time' restriction applied to ensure that the access to

the store and the district centre remains clear. The principle of hard-standing and the Traffic Orders were approved at January's meeting.

Results and Comments

- 4.8 In all, 20 properties were consulted on the location of the crossing. 11 replies were received. This is a good response rate, being 55%. The detailed personal comments raised by people are included in Appendix B.
- 4.9 Four respondents would prefer to see the crossing outside number 33 and four would prefer it outside numbers 41 and 43. Three respondents indicated that they did not want a crossing on Chaucer Road at all. These three people were not claiming that a crossing was unnecessary, but they personally would not want a crossing outside their house and therefore did not wish to vote for a crossing outside their neighbours' house.

Officer Evaluation

- 4.10 To date, the Council has not received any overriding reason for not placing the crossing in either of the two locations. The majority of the comments relate to convenience and quality of life issues. These are subjective issues and are difficult to balance.
- 4.11 From an engineering point of view, the crossing at number 33 directly affects 3 properties, whilst at 41/43, six are affected. This directly relates to the number of vehicles that can be parked on any hard-standing. Properties round 41/43 only have the potential to provide one off-street parking space. At number 33 there is the opportunity to provide two off-street spaces. Officers have agreed that kerb amendments can be carried out as part of the general highways works, under the Section 278 agreement with the developer (about related works on the highway), and that no additional permissions are necessary. Officers are happy that manoeuvring from the access can be done safely. The resident then only has to secure the works within the property. As there already a concrete area in the garden, this amounts to changes to the boundary fence.
- 4.12 The crossing can be placed outside numbers 41/43 because these properties do not currently have any off-street parking provision. Placing the crossing in front of these properties would permanently remove the opportunity to provide off-street parking. Number 33 has sufficient frontage to accommodate the crossing and still allow vehicle access. The properties at 41/43 will have the crossing directly outside their windows and will be visually intrusive. Number 33 presents an angled aspect to the road and the crossing has been located opposite a corner to minimise its visual impact.
- 4.13 Either crossing location will accommodate the majority of pedestrian need. People arriving from the Halifax Road area would use the crossing at either location. From the Deerlands Avenue area, most people would choose to use the new pedestrian island rather than walk up Chaucer Road to a crossing and then walk back down to the store entrance. The only people likely to suffer from the movement of the crossing are those residents of Chaucer Road itself, who would have a short additional distance to walk.

- 4.14 Concerns about noise from the crossing can be addressed by reducing the volume of the warning or by turning it off altogether. The crossing will be a 'Puffin', which has the red/green man signal mounted low down where people stand. As a result, there is little likelihood of light intrusion. If there is some spillage from the main signal heads then cowls can be fitted. These mitigation methods can be applied to the crossing at either location.
- 4.15 The location at numbers 41/43 is on a straighter section of road and hence drivers' view of the crossing, and people waiting there, is good. Number 33, Chaucer Road is on a bend, but the forward visibility of the crossing, whilst not as good as at 41/43, is adequate. ASDA's engineers have not raised any safety concerns about this location.
- 4.16 On balance, the engineering evaluation would indicate that the most appropriate place for the crossing is outside number 33.

Financial Implications

- 4.17 There are no financial implications for the Council as the crossing forms part of the highway works associated with ASDA store and is being funded by them.

Equal Opportunity Implications

- 4.18 An equality impact assessment was carried out for the January report. This assessment implicitly included the provision of a crossing on Chaucer Road and concluded that it would be of equal positive benefit to all local people regardless of age, sex, race, faith, disability, sexuality, etc.
- 4.19 The sole purpose of carrying out this further consultation is ensure that all residents have been given the same opportunity to comment on the proposals and to put right the mistake made.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Before deciding whether to re-consult on the location of the crossing point a number of other options were considered and discarded.
- 5.2 The obvious and possibly the best option for most of the residents of Chaucer Road would be the removal of the crossing as a requirement of the planning permission. However, as previously, stated, the Planning Committee has made a judgement that a crossing on Chaucer Road would meet the future needs of the area by providing a safe crossing point for people travelling to the Chaucer District Centre and the new retail store. The October consultation indicated strong support for the crossing. For these reason, this option has not been pursued.
- 5.3 One resident has suggested locating the crossing at the roundabout with Deerlands Avenue. The highway changes here amend the roundabout to include a new pedestrian island. Consideration had already been given, at the planning stage, to this matter. This location had been discounted by council officers and ASDA's consulting engineers. Crossings on the exit from a roundabout always have safety issues, relying on drivers seeing a red light and being able to stop. It

is normal practice to locate the exit crossing some distance from the exit. Limitations on land availability would mean that crossing would be very close to the roundabout exit and so would not be safe. Additionally, there was concern that such a crossing would generate queues going back into the roundabout, resulting in congestion.

- 5.4 Consideration was given to locating the crossing between Chaucer Close and Halifax Road. This option was discounted for two reasons. Firstly, a crossing located on this section of Chaucer Road would be unattractive to anyone coming out of Chaucer Close. Secondly, a crossing here would suffer from the same concerns raised at the other locations, but would offer no particular advantage.
- 5.5 Finally, consideration was given to alternative measures to assist pedestrians cross Chaucer Road. A zebra crossing has essentially the same impact on parking as a controlled crossing. Indeed, the need for intervisibility between a driver and someone waiting at the crossing is paramount for safety and consideration could not be given to reducing the zig-zag marking or providing hard standing closer to the crossing. A central pedestrian island would provide less benefit and safety, but would still attract parking restrictions to ensure that traffic can safely pass the island. Additionally, there would be extensive statutory undertakers diversions needed to accommodate the necessary road widening.
- 5.6 On balance, it is considered that pursuing one of the two crossing locations presents the best benefit for pedestrians for journeys to and from the District Centre.

6.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The provision of a signal controlled pedestrian crossing is in compliance with the granted planning permission and will provide a safe crossing point for people travelling by foot to and from the District Centre.
- 6.2 The location recommended, outside number 33, impacts least on the street as a whole and mitigation measure can be taken to minimise the effects on that resident.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Approve the location of the crossing outside number 33 and instruct officers to make reasonable adjustments to the crossing location and design such that its impact is minimised.
- 7.2 Officers to liaise with ASDA, and their contractors, to ensure that the verge and footway are suitably amended to provide additional parking opportunities.
- 7.3 Officers to inform the Chaucer Road residents of Members' decision.

Simon Green
Executive Director, Place

9 June 2011

APPENDIX A

Development Services

Director: L Sturch, MRTPI

2-10 Carbrook Hall Road · Sheffield · S9 2DB

Email: simon.botterill@sheffield.gov.uk Fax: (0114) 273 6182

Officer: Mr S Botterill

Tel: (0114) 273 6167

Ref: TM-BR242-08-SB

Date: 8 April 2011

Sheffield
City Council



Dear Sir or Madam

ASDA STORE – HIGHWAY WORKS

Pedestrian Crossing on Chaucer Road and Verge Hardening

You may remember that we consulted with you in October 2010 with regard to the highways works for the new Asda store. A number of small amendments were made to the proposals as a result and I am now writing to update you on the progress of these works.

Many of you completed the questionnaire which has helped us greatly. Additionally, some residents attended a public meeting, organised by the Tenants and Residents Association.

Pedestrian Crossing

Unfortunately, a consultation error has been made regarding the location of the proposed pedestrian crossing on Chaucer Road.

People made it clear, both through the questionnaire and at the meeting, that the potential loss of parking on Chaucer Road, caused by the crossing, would cause personal difficulty. I agreed to investigate moving the crossing point from outside numbers 41 and 43. It was suggested that the crossing could be located outside number 33. This location was investigated and was found acceptable from an engineering and safety point of view. Accordingly, the proposal was revised.

A report was submitted to Council and the highway works were formally approved. This included the provision of verge hardening to allow off-road parking.

Unfortunately, the residents who would be most directly affected by the change to the crossing location were not told about this and did not, therefore, get a chance to comment. I have now received an objection to the crossing, which is proposed outside number 33 Chaucer Road.

In the light of this new information, I am obliged to ask the Council to revisit the decision it made. I will therefore be writing a new report for the Cabinet Highways Committee to consider on the **12th May 2011**. The report will set out the advantages and drawbacks of placing the crossing at the two locations.

I will include the comments I received previously, but I would welcome your further comments. **Please fill in the attached questionnaire and return it to me by 22nd April.** I have also included a plan (TM-BR242-C04) that you may find helpful.

Cabinet Highways Committee meets at the Town Hall and meetings start at 2.00 pm. The Committee will make the final decision on how to proceed. You are welcome to attend the meeting, but it is suggested that you refer to the Council's website (www.sheffield.gov.uk), for more information. You can speak at the meeting. If you wish to do so then you should make your intention known to the committee secretary in advance.

Verge Hardening

You will recall that it is proposed to prevent all parking on Chaucer Road by the introduction of double yellow lines. This is to ensure that traffic is not obstructed, especially large vehicles to the service area and would stop all parking on the road; importantly, this would normally also stop parking on the verges.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that Asda have been very helpful in agreeing to fund the works to provide off-road parking for your friends and family along the majority of the Chaucer Road. This will mean that the majority of grassed areas outside of your houses will be removed and replaced by tarmac, allowing you to park. These tarmac areas will be a slightly different colour to the existing drives.

The appearance of the driveways to your houses will not be altered, so they will still be clear to passing drivers and the kerbing arrangement in front of the verge hardened areas will also remain. In this way, I expect that you will not get any problems with people parking outside your houses to visit the store. Please note that the double yellow lines on the road itself will still go ahead so parking will not be allowed on the road itself.

The full extent of the hardening will be determined once the location of the crossing has been finalised.

If you require any further information please contact the myself, Simon Botterill on 0114 2736167 or by e-mail at simon.botterill@sheffield.gov.uk

Yours faithfully



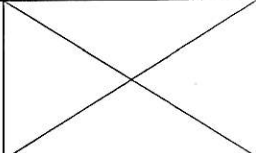
Simon Botterill
Team Manager
Transport & Highways Division

Proposed Asda Store Chaucer Road Pedestrian Crossing Public Consultation

Please tell us your views on the possible crossing locations as shown on the attached plan, TM-BR242-C04. Please complete and returning this questionnaire in the prepaid envelope, by **Friday 22nd April 2011**.

How far do you agree or disagree with the following statement.... (place a X in the box)

Q1	"A signal-controlled pedestrian crossing of Chaucer Road will make it easier and safer to cross the road."	Strongly agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Agree <input type="checkbox"/>	Disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly disagree <input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure <input type="checkbox"/>
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Q2	"I think the best place for the crossing is....."	Outside Numbers 41 and 43 <input type="checkbox"/>	Outside number 33 <input type="checkbox"/>	
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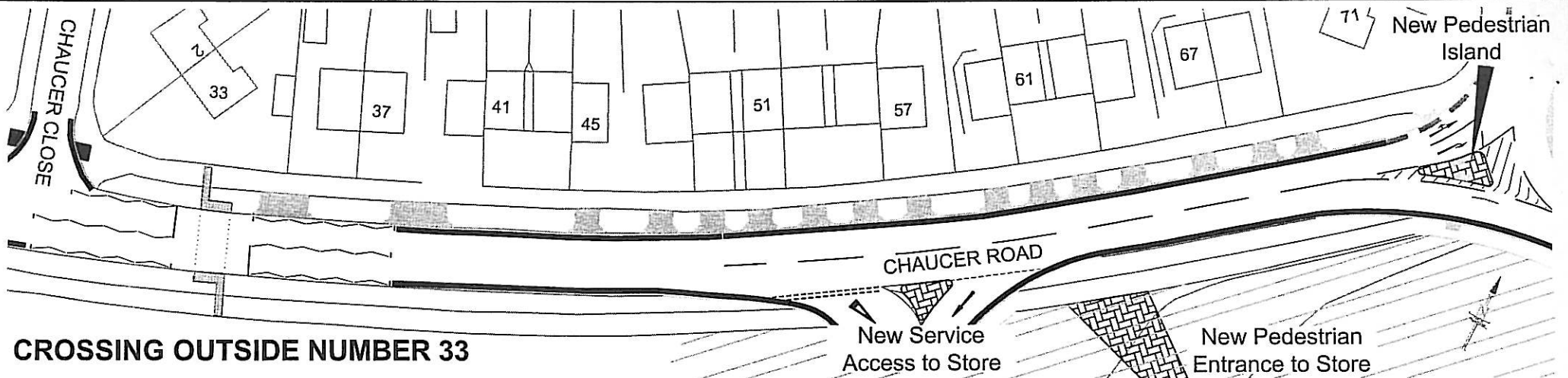
Please give your reasons for where you think the crossing should go.

I would like to see the crossing placed at the location indicated above because.....

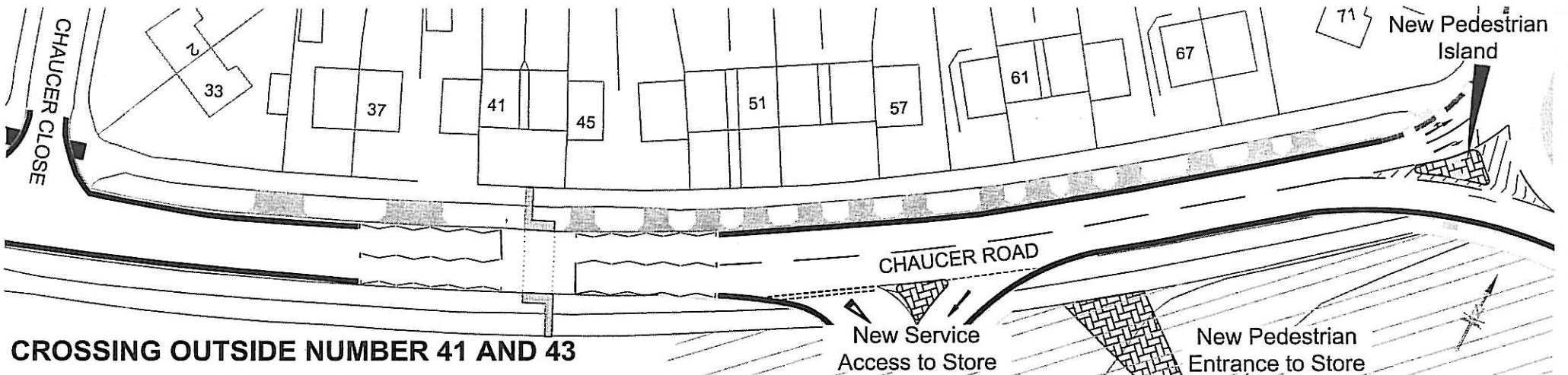
Please write your name, address (including post code) and contact number below:

Thank you!

Please return your questionnaire in the freepost envelope provided (you do not need a stamp) by **Friday 22nd April 2011**.







CROSSING OUTSIDE NUMBER 33



CROSSING OUTSIDE NUMBER 41 AND 43

LEGEND

- Signal Controlled Pedestrian Crossing 
- Zig-zag Markings (No parking on road and verge) 
- Proposed Double Yellow Lines (Prohibition of Waiting at Anytime) 
- Existing drives to houses 

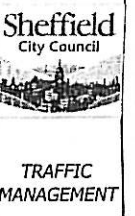
No parking is allowed within the zig-zag markings to ensure people waiting at the crossing can be seen

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Development Services

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Client **SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**
Scheme **CHAUCER ROAD HIGHWAY WORKS**
Drawing Title **LOCATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CONSULTATION DRAWING**

Drawing No. **TM-BR242-C04**
Scale **1 / 500**
A3
Date **APRIL 2011**



DRAWN **SB**
APRIL 11

CHECKED

APPENDIX B – Results of the Resident Consultation

A letter, plan and questionnaire were delivered to all properties on Chaucer Road from Chaucer Close to Deerlands Avenue on the 8th April 2011. Twenty letters were distributed to the house numbers 33 to 71 inclusive. People were asked to reply by the 22nd April, although late responses have included in this report.

Crossing at Numbers 41/43

Below is a summary of the comments received about the crossing being placed at this location. Similar comments have been raised by different people.

For

- It is on a straight bit of road
- It would be in the middle of road and will benefit more people
- It's the obvious place to put it
- Just thinks it's the best place
- Central for all concerned

Against

- No 47 is a childminder and lack of parking would affect her business
- Lack of parking will be a problem for family when they come and visit.
- Lives alone and would feel unsafe if a crossing was outside.
- Would prevent getting the hard-standing to park on.
- No parking for friends
- Would make it difficult to get off the drive.
- Would affect the childminder.
- Don't want the beeping

Crossing at Numbers 33

Below is a summary of the comments received about the crossing being placed at this location.

For

- There is more room at number 33
- Affects less houses

Against

- Should go where it was originally placed by Adsa's engineers
- Beeping will affect sleeping as I work shifts.
- Flashing lights will affect ability to sleep and will be annoying.
- It will affect the resale value of the property
- Too close to the junction with Chaucer Close.
- It would be on a bend.
- The crossing will prevent having a second drive.
- It will be unsafe to reverse out of the drive over the crossing.
- It will be used by more people if placed lower down the road.
- More traffic noise.
- Increased litter.
- Gangs hanging around the crossing.

CHAUCER ROAD CONTROLLED CROSSING

Re-consultation with Residents

General Comments

Below is a summary of other comments received, which do not fall into the above areas.

- You will put where you want
- Residents should have permits to stop Asda customers parking
- The crossing should be at the roundabout
- Not fair to impose on anyone, so no crossing at all.
- Glad to hear about the hard-standing.
- Would be happy to have the crossing outside their house if it wasn't for the zig-zag lines affecting neighbours.
- Wouldn't want the crossing outside his house so wouldn't wish it on another.
- Could put the crossing outside my house (no room though)
- No one would want it outside their house. There will always be an objection.