



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment, Regeneration and Streetscene Services Cabinet Board

3rd March 2023

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport D.W.Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected: Aberavon

Proposed Raised Toucan Crossing, various Traffic Regulation Orders and Traffic Calming Measures in association with the Village Road, Village Gardens and Pentre Afan Road Safety Scheme in Aberavon.

Purpose of the Report:

To obtain Members approval to advertise the above proposed raised toucan crossing, traffic regulation orders and traffic calming measures as indicated in Appendix A and Appendix B.

Executive Summary:

The report outlines the proposed raised toucan crossing, traffic regulation orders and traffic calming measures and the reasons why these orders are required.

Background:

Ongoing representations over several years have been received to South Wales Police, the local members and engineering officers from both parents and residents of Village Gardens regarding road safety concerns along Village Road, Village Gardens and Pentre Afan, Aberavon.

The road safety concerns include the inappropriate speed of traffic, difficulty for pedestrians crossing Village Road and the indiscriminate parking practices on Village Road, Village Gardens and Pentre Afan particularly from parents of pupils attending Ysgol Bae Baglan and Bro Dur.

There is an existing footbridge which crosses the A4241 Afan Way connecting to Village Road which provides a designated safe route to pupils of Ysgol Bae Baglan and Bro Dur. This has proved popular with parents and road safety issues have arisen for children from Village Gardens crossing Village Road due to indiscriminate parking by some parents.

Officers from Engineering and Transport have undertaken several monitoring traffic surveys along Village Road to assess the reported risks since the opening of Bae Baglan, the results of which have confirmed that traffic is travelling over the legal speed limited of 30mph with an average 85% percentile traffic speed of 37mph, thereby supporting the need for traffic calming measures at this location.

It has been observed that vehicles use Village Road rather than Afan Way as a rat run, thereby increasing the average volume of daily traffic on this residential road resulting in pedestrians experiencing difficulties crossing the road. This supports the suggestion that a controlled raised Toucan Crossing would provide a benefit to vulnerable users at this location.

Indiscriminate parking was observed at the uncontrolled crossing point on Village Road even though some parking restrictions have previously been implemented. Therefore, it is considered that additional and more robust parking restrictions should be supported.

Officers from the highways section attended a public consultation where they met with the elected members, representatives of the South Wales Police and Ysgol Bae Baglan and Bro Dur. Following the meeting it was agreed by all parties that the proposed raised toucan crossing facility, speed cushions and traffic regulation orders should be introduced to address the aforementioned highlighted concerns.

The proposed traffic calming measures include a raised speed plateau toucan crossing facility and speed cushions along Village Road near its junction with Village Gardens.

The proposed traffic regulation orders are 'Prohibition of Waiting, Loading and Unloading At Any Time' restrictions (Village Road) (Village Road junction with Village Gardens) (Village Road junction with Pentre Afan) and 'Prohibition of Motor Vehicles Except for Access' restrictions (Village Gardens) and (Pentre Afan).

The proposals are indicated in Appendix A and Appendix B.

Financial Impacts:

The scheme is to be funded by the Council's Capital Programme.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix C, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. A summary is included below:-

A full impact assessment is not required as the proposed raised toucan crossing, traffic regulation orders and traffic calming measures will provide a safe environment for all highway users.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

There are 'No Implications' associated with this report.

Workforce Impacts:

There are 'No Implications' associated with this report.

Legal Impacts:

The scheme is to be advertised for a 21 day period as part of the statutory process.

Risk Management Impacts:

There are no risk management impacts associated with this report.

Consultation:

A consultation exercise will be undertaken when the scheme is advertised.

Recommendations:

Having had due regard to the integrated impact assessment it is recommended that approval is granted to advertise the proposed

raised toucan crossing, traffic regulation orders and traffic calming measures (As detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B to the circulated report) and if no objections are received that the proposals are to be implemented on site as advertised.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

The proposed raised toucan crossing will provide a safe crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists in the interest of road safety.

The proposed traffic calming measures will slow down vehicular traffic and are required in the interest of road safety.

The proposed traffic regulation orders will prevent indiscriminate parking and facilitate the passage of vehicular traffic in the interest of road safety.

Implementation of Decision:

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Plan – Village Road, Aberavon – Proposed Traffic Calming Measures

Appendix B – Plan – Village Road, Village Gardens and Pentre Afan, Aberavon – Proposed Traffic Regulation Orders

Appendix C – Integrated Impact Assessment.

List of Background Papers:

None.

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