

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 24 NOVEMBER 2020

WESTWAY, ARBROATH – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE

ABSTRACT

This report presents the findings of a consultation exercise undertaken with the community to determine the most appropriate site for the proposed pedestrian crossing on Westway, Arbroath.

1 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the comments received during the consultation process regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing installation on the Westway, Arbroath;
- (ii) notes the range of opinions expressed by those who responded to the consultation; and
- (iii) agrees the location for the installation of the proposed pedestrian crossing on the Westway, Arbroath, as detailed in this report.

2 ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS LOCAL OUTCOMES IMPROVEMENT PLAN/CORPORATE PLAN

This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

ECONOMY

- An inclusive and sustainable economy

PLACE

- Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Report No. 58/20 considered by the Communities Committee on 25 February 2020 detailed the findings of an investigation into the potential siting of a pedestrian crossing on Westway, Arbroath. The proposals are re-presented on the plan appended to this report (**Appendix 1**).
- 3.2 The Communities Committee agreed in principle to the provision of a pedestrian crossing on the Westway, potentially to the south of its junction with Arbirlot Road and that consultation with the community should be undertaken to determine the most appropriate site.
- 3.3 Consultation with the community was carried out using Angus Council's website and via social media between 23 July and 7 August 2020. A copy of the consultation notification is appended to this report (**Appendix 2**).
- 3.4 The number of responses to the consultation was relatively low as set out below with no consensus for a preferred location.

- 3.5 Three emailed responses were received from individuals by the closing date of 7 August 2020. Of these responses, one (33%) agreed and two (66%) disagreed with the proposed pedestrian crossing location. The comments provided through the emailed responses are shown in **Appendix 3**.

5 PROPOSAL

- 5.1 Given that the response from the consultation with the community was so low, it is recommended that the proposed pedestrian crossing should be installed at the original suggested location on the Westway to the south of its junction with Arbirlot Road (as shown in **Appendix 1**).
- 5.2 The original suggested location, as reported in Report No. 58/20, sits on a recognised route to school and connects to the shared use core path network, which links to Muirfield Primary School. A school crossing patroller currently operates from this location with high volumes of children crossing to both Muirfield Primary School and the nearby Arbroath High School.
- 5.3 Should the Committee determine to proceed with the installation of a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing and associated works on the Westway at the location shown in **Appendix 1**, it is proposed that the installation will be undertaken within the financial year 2020/21.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The estimated cost to install the proposed “puffin” style signal-controlled pedestrian crossing, including associated works on the Westway to the south of its junction with Arbirlot Road is £30,000, which would be funded from the 2020/21 Traffic Signals Capital Budget.
- 6.2 There will be ongoing maintenance costs associated with the establishment of a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing of approximately £400 per annum, which would be required to be met from the Revenue Budget for Traffic Signals maintenance, within the overall Roads & Transportation Revenue Budget.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Finance, Director of Legal and Democratic Services and the local Police Commander of Tayside Division were consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report No. 95/08: The assessment and provision of Pedestrian Crossings
- Report No. 58/20: Westway, Arbroath – Pedestrian Crossing

REPORT AUTHOR: Walter Scott, Service Leader – Roads & Transportation

EMAIL DETAILS: Communities@angus.gov.uk

List of Appendices:

- Appendix 1: Westway, Arbroath – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing Location
- Appendix 2: Westway, Arbroath - Pedestrian Crossing Consultation Notification
- Appendix 3: Westway, Arbroath - Pedestrian Crossing Consultation Comments

Westway, Arbroath – Proposed Pedestrian Crossing Location

Westway, Arbroath Pedestrian Crossing Consultation Notification

Proposed Installation of a Pedestrian Crossing on Westway, Arbroath

Angus Council's Communities Committee agreed to the provision of a signal-controlled crossing on Westway Arbroath on 25th February 2020. The request for a crossing was received from members of the public, highlighting difficulties that pedestrians face whilst crossing the Westway, primarily due to the high volume and perceived speed of traffic.

The Communities Committee granted permission for one crossing to be provided on Westway.

A detailed investigation was subsequently undertaken of the area in accordance with Angus Council's policy for the assessment and provision of signal-controlled pedestrian crossings. The results of the investigation concluded that the installation of a light controlled pedestrian crossing in the vicinity of the Arbirlot Road junction was justified and that the most appropriate location for the pedestrian crossing was approximately 20 metres south of the junction, where the pedestrian island is currently located.

This location sits on a recognised route to school and connects to the shared use core path network, which links to Muirfield Primary School. A school crossing patroller currently operates at this location with high volumes of children crossing to both Muirfield Primary School and the nearby Arbroath High School. If a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing were to be installed at this location, then the school crossing patroller would be relocated to another school crossing patrol point within Arbroath once the children had become accustomed to operating the pedestrian crossing. Concerns have been raised in the past regards the use of the nearby underpass.

Angus Council would now welcome comments regarding the installation and location of a signal-controlled pedestrian crossing on the Westway and whether this should be in the vicinity of its junction with Arbirlot Road.

If you or your community group or organisation have any comments, please send them to ROADS@angus.gov.uk by Friday 7th August 2020. All comments will be reviewed and reported to the Communities Committee for consideration.

WESTWAY, ARBROATH PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CONSULTATION COMMENTS

- Response 1 of 3

"I think any crossings in busy areas such as this are always welcome, especially for the safety of school kids that may be using the route out with the crossing patrol times (e.g. if they have afterschool activities, etc.).

At the moment, however, I would say the less communal buttons people are touching to operate things like crossings the better - given how easy it can be to forget to wash your hands every time. Have you possibly considered a foot-operated button or a sensor to detect people waiting to cross? I understand this wouldn't be entirely practical to replace all crossings with right away, but if you're building a new one it would be a good way to trial it."

- Response 2 of 3

"This is my thoughts in response to a pedestrian crossing consultation for the Westway.

As there is no play park provision at all in the Hospitalfield area a crossing that would allow children to cross the Westway and use the park at Arbirlot Place would be best (somewhere between the junction with the Steading/Steading Place and Antiquary Gardens) this would also allow all children walking to Arbroath High School who live in Hospitalfield to safely cross the Westway."

- Response 3 of 3

"I live at XXX Antiquary Gardens Arbroath."

The proposed location of the pedestrian crossing will clearly result in congestion of vehicles coming from Arbirlot Road and Arbirlot Road West, the noise of which will impact the residents of Antiquary Gardens.

Coupled with this, the site of the crossing will result in Double Deck buses stopping outside my address and will allow passengers on the top deck to see directly into my property. It is my opinion that the crossing should be sited North of the junction at Arbirlot Road West.