

**11 July 2005**

## **Safer Routes to School – Proposed changes to Sutton Road**

### **Purpose**

To inform the partnership of the extensive consultation that has taken place on these proposals and the decisions made.

### **Report**

The Road Safety Unit has been working with Queen Mary's Grammar and Mayfield Schools to try and find long-term solutions to the traffic problems in Sutton Road at the beginning and end of the school day. To be successful any initiative should include engineering measures to improve safety together with education, training and publicity programmes fully supported by the schools.

Following consultation with pupils and parents at Queen Mary's School, these have been included within a school travel plan.

Consequently a draft traffic engineering scheme has been proposed for Sutton Road. This aims to combat parking problems in Sutton Road. Parking will be formalised by building protected bays. Together with pedestrian refuges these will also narrow the road and so reduce the speed of vehicles

Approximately 200 households were originally consulted on the scheme together with the emergency services. This saw replies in favour of the scheme with a ratio of 47 to 27, with one undecided.

Following a request from the Local Neighbourhood Partnership approximately 450 households were also invited to a public meeting at Queen Mary's School on 19 May 2005.

No residents that attended this meeting were in favour of the scheme. The two main concerns expressed were that the scheme did not address the problems outside Mayfield School and that formalising parking by creating bays on both sides of Sutton Road would cause great inconvenience for residents.

It also became apparent that residents felt that greater enforcement of parking restrictions by the Police would ease some of the problems outside Mayfield School. As a result the Road Safety Unit will work with the Police on some high-profile parking campaigns. It will also continue to work with the school on the production of a school travel plan to investigate longer term solutions to the problem.

Fourteen households that had not previously objected to the scheme were represented at the meeting. Everyone else's objections had been included within the original

consultation results. When all the objections are added together they total 41, compared with the 47 in favour.

### **Next steps**

Although there is still a majority who replied to consultation in favour, the comments made at the meeting have been taken into consideration and the following changes made:

- Retain the two crossing facilities either side of the school entrance.
- Retain the formalised parking on the south side of Sutton Road, this will have the effect of reducing the dual carriageway into Walsall to a single lane thus reducing the speed.
- Remove the proposals for formalised parking on the north side and build outs at the junction of Prince Street, Orwell Street, Boscobel Road. This will maintain the two lane exit out of Walsall.
- Modify the third crossing point adjacent to Princes Avenue.
- The 'gateway' into Walsall to be enhanced by the trimming of the hedge along the central reservation and consideration given to planting flowers in some areas to improve the local area

Details of these changes, together with notes from the meeting will also be passed to all those residents consulted.

### **Relationship to the plan**

Traffic management around schools is a priority within the partnership plan and members feel that there is a real need to create alternatives rather than the congestion caused by many parents driving children to school. These should be addressed within school travel plans.

### **Vision 2008**

The partnership plans are based on the Vision's identified themes. This initiative particularly links to the following specific priorities:

- Ensure a clean green Borough
- Make it easier for people to get around
- Ensure all people are safe and secure

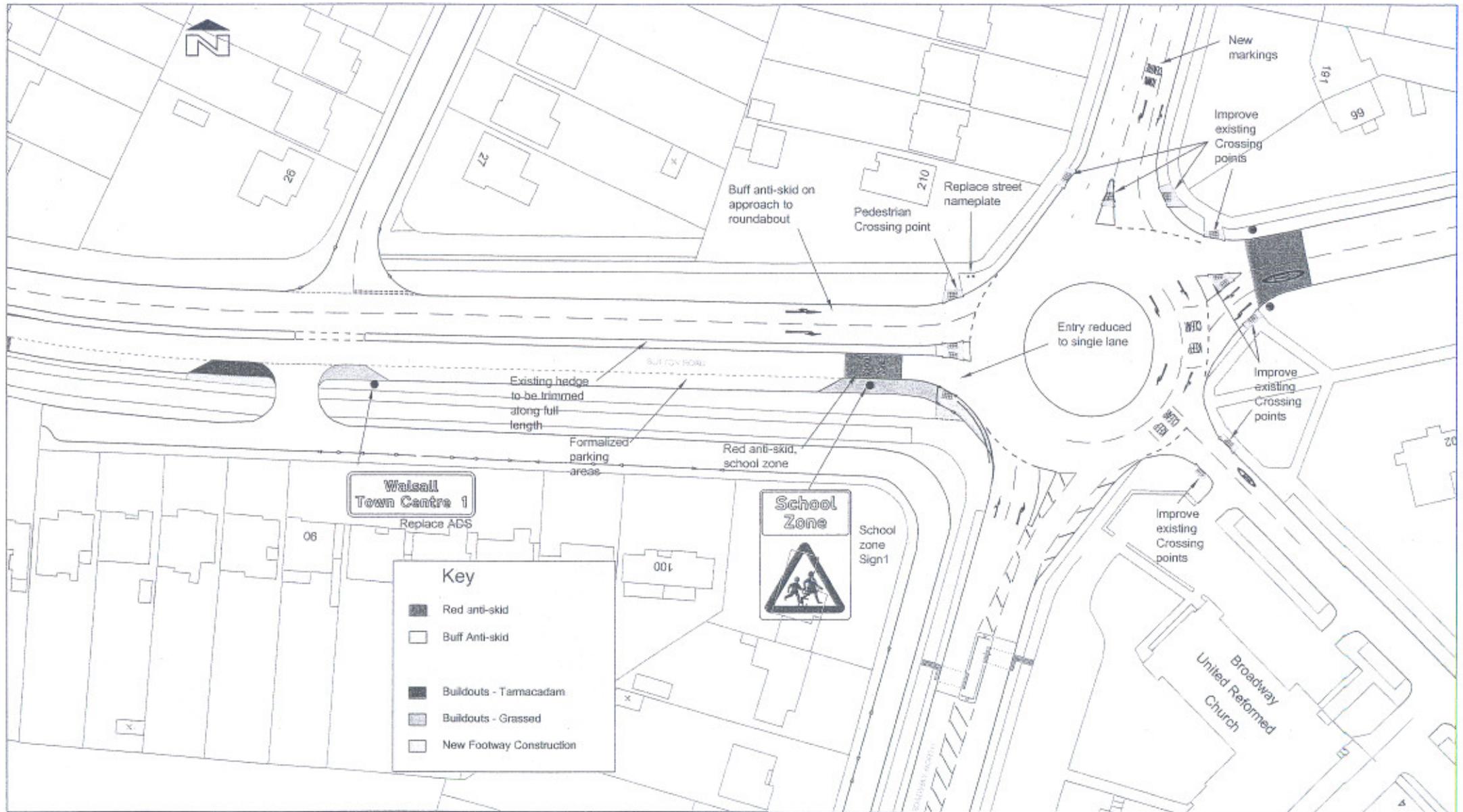
### **Recommendations**

The partnership is asked to note the decision taken on this scheme.

### **Contact officers**

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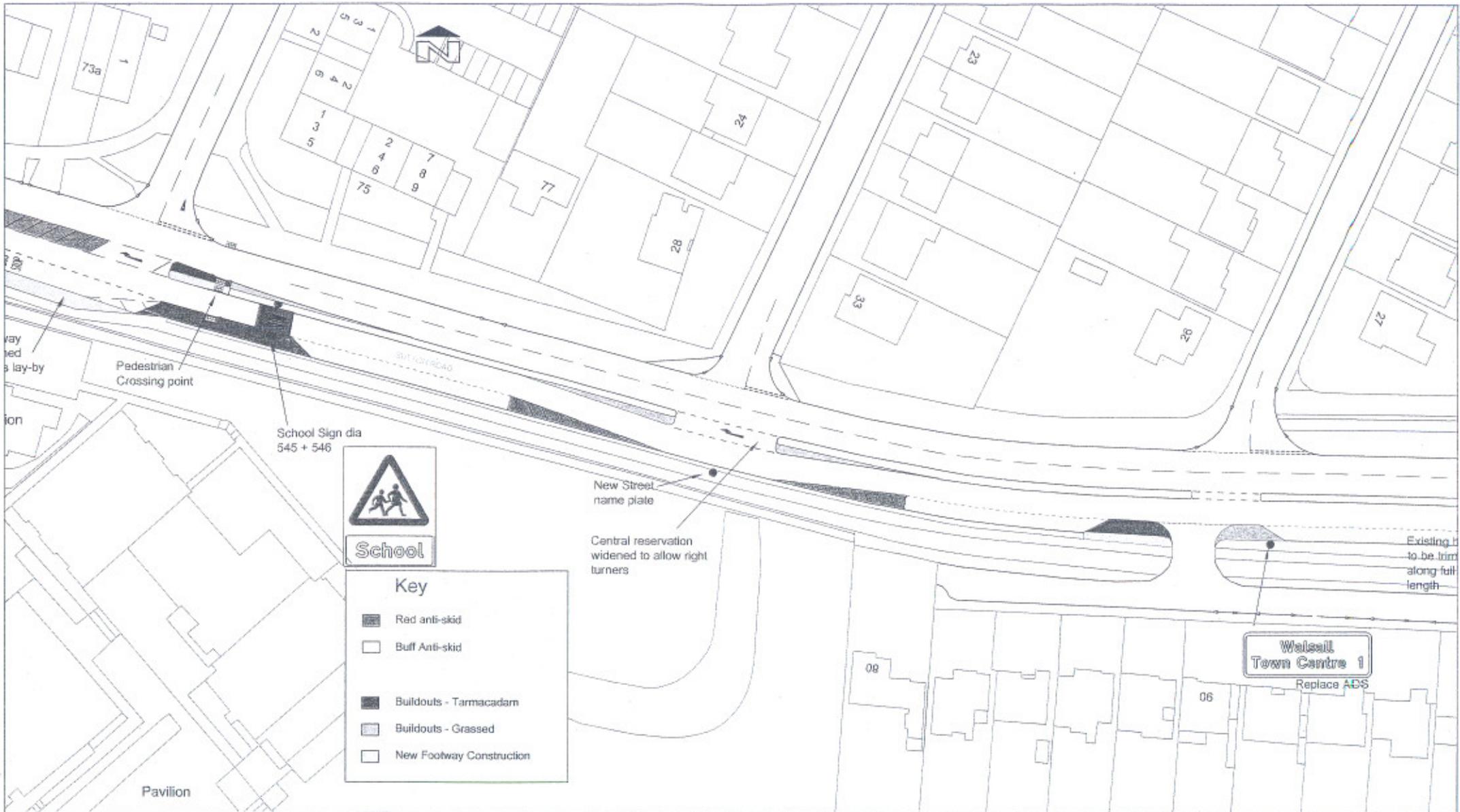
Key	
	Red anti-skid
	Buff Anti-skid
	Buildouts - Tarmacadam
	Buildouts - Grassed
	New Footway Construction

REVISION.	DATE.



WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
 PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION  
CIVIC CENTRE, DARWALL STREET,  
 WALSALL WS1 1DB

<b>JOB</b>	Queen Mary's Grammar - Sutton Road Route Action Scheme
<b>TITLE</b>	Scheme Design Plan
<b>DRAWN</b>	C. Porter
<b>CHECKED</b>	J. Raan
<b>DATE</b>	May 05
<b>SCALE</b>	As shown
<b>DRAWING NO.</b>	JR117/C4

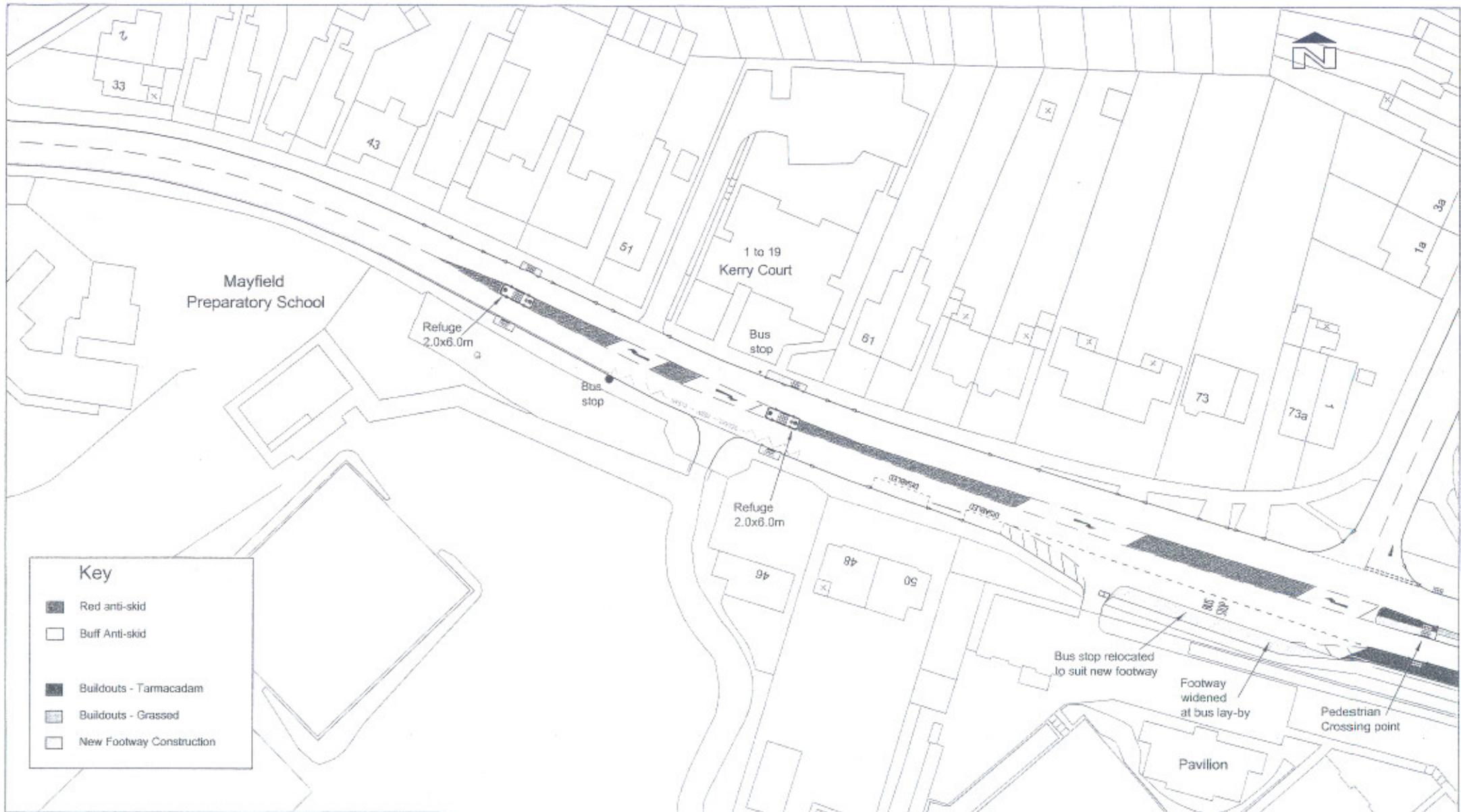


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**WALSALL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
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