

## **Council – 22 September 2014**

### **Petition – Road safety improvements: Chester Road & Lindon Road**

#### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. This report is in response to the petition *“Every day the children walking up and down Chester Road have to contend with the anchor bridge and Lindon Road junction where there is a pathetic bollard and fast moving traffics. There is also on Lindon Road and out of the arc zebra crossing which needs to be updated to traffic lights as the cars rarely stop.”*
- 1.2. The petition contained in excess of 1,500 signatures. The Council’s petitions scheme provides that: *“If a petition contains at least 1,500 signatures it will be debated at a meeting of the Council. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting to which all Councillors can attend and speak. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given 5 minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action that the petition requests; not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or to ask for further information. Where the issue is one where the Cabinet are required to make the final decision the Council will decide to make recommendations to the Cabinet. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision and this will be published on our website.”*

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. To note the content of the petition.
- 2.2. To note the previous good road safety history for this section of Chester Road and the outcome of the Council’s investigation into providing a pedestrian crossing facility at this location and that it is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> on the Measures to Encourage Walking programme.
- 2.3. To note the outcome from the Coroner’s inquest that the death was caused by head injuries sustained in a Road Traffic Collision. Additional narrative from the Coroner indicated that *‘the deceased attempted to cross Chester Road, Walsall when it was unsafe to do so, and was in collision with an approaching lorry that was being properly driven’*.

- 2.4. To note that the Council will undertake a refurbishment of the equipment at the existing zebra crossing on Lindon Road.

### **3. Background Information**

- 3.1. The roads mentioned in the petition form part of the residential area of Brownhills. The Chester Road is an 'A' classified road and serves the purpose as a district distributor road. Lindon Road is a 'B' classified road and serves as a local distributor road.
- 3.2. Following a letter from Richard Shepherd MP, a request for consideration of a new pedestrian crossing facility along this section of Chester Road was originally registered during April 2014. To enable this request to be fully assessed it was necessary to undertake a traffic survey to establish the pedestrian demand. Unfortunately, due to the Easter break, the survey could not be undertaken immediately and it was necessary to wait for the children to return to school to establish the correct pedestrian flows. The survey was carried out on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2014.
- 3.3. Following the return of pupils from the Easter holiday period, my road safety team carried out a traffic survey along this section of the Chester Road to ascertain the need for further road safety measures. This data was used in the assessment of new pedestrian facilities and I can confirm that the road would benefit from the installation of a zebra crossing or pedestrian refuge, as this would be most appropriate taking into account the relevant criteria. The estimated cost of installing a zebra crossing at this location is £35,000.
- 3.4. Funding for this type of work is provided through the Local Transport Plan 3, Integrated Transport Block Allocation. The breakdown of this funding was reported to Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Part of the funding is allocated to deliver the Measures to Encourage Walking programme. This programme considers and prioritises all requests for new pedestrian facilities. The programme is updated regularly to ensure that the latest requests are considered and included as part of the programme. A summary of the programme is contained in Appendix 1. No other funding stream is currently identified for this purpose.
- 3.5. In the case of Chester Road, in comparison with other requests across the borough, it only ranks 11<sup>th</sup> on the priority list. This is largely due to the small number of pedestrians that crossed within the surveyed area; the location surveyed served the bus stops located near Friezeland Lane and approximately 50 metres either side. The traffic survey was carried out between 08:00 – 10:00hrs and 14:00 – 16:00hrs,

these times were selected due to link to the school journey and the times at which children and their parents/travel. During the survey an average of 20 pedestrians were observed crossing Chester Road. A smaller number of pedestrians were observed walking down to use the pedestrian refuge near the junction with Lindon Road. Therefore, from existing Local Transport Plan funds, it would prove difficult to justify the implementation of a new crossing facility at this location ahead of the other requests ranked of higher priority.

- 3.6. Despite the tragic circumstances surrounding the road traffic collision it is difficult to assess whether a pedestrian crossing facility would have prevented this collision occurring. As part of the investigations it is standard procedure for the Council's Road Safety team to support the investigation process and undertake a joint review of the collision site with the police. This site inspection has been completed and submitted to West Midlands Police Collision Investigation Unit to support their investigation.
- 3.7. Chester Road does benefit from centre hatching which assists in controlling vehicle speeds and there is also a safety camera housing located within the vicinity. The collision history for this section of road is good in that the number of collisions is small for a road of this type and there have been no recorded personal injury collisions during the past three years. Previous traffic surveys undertaken in April 2013, have recorded the average traffic speed at 25.9mph. Additionally there have been no requests previously made for pedestrian facilities in this location.
- 3.8. The police investigation has now concluded with the Coroners verdict. The Record of Inquest recorded that the death was caused by fatal head injury (comminuted skull fracture) sustained by Road Traffic Collision. Additional narrative confirmed that *'At about 3.25pm on the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2014 the deceased attempted to cross Chester Road, Walsall when it was unsafe to do so, and was in collision with an approaching lorry that was being properly driven'*. No further action will be taken by West Midlands Police.
- 3.9. In relation to the request to upgrade the zebra crossing on Lindon Road, the Council has undertaken an assessment of the existing facilities.
- 3.10. A traffic survey was undertaken on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 during both the AM peak period (08:00 – 10:00) and the PM peak period (14:00-16:00). These times were selected due to link to the school journey and the times at which children and their parents/carers will be travelling. During the am peak period, 6 children and 4 adults were observed crossing at the zebra or within 50 metres; the same numbers were observed during the pm peak period.
- 3.11. Unfortunately the total numbers of pedestrians are very low and as such do not justify any upgrade from the existing zebra crossing to a signalised crossing facility.

Throughout these times no difficulties were observed with vehicles stopping to allow pedestrians safe passage. Although only a snapshot of the existing situation, the provision of a Zebra crossing still represents a safer place to cross and compliance with these is generally good.

- 3.12. The collision history for this section of road is good in that the number collisions was small for a road of this type. There were five slight personal injury collisions along Brownhills Road and Lindon Road in the period between 2009–2012 giving a collision rate of 30 accidents per 100 million vehicle kilometres. This is lower than the national average of 52 accidents per 100 million vehicle kilometres for a similar type of road. Previous traffic surveys have recorded the average traffic speed at 26.1mph.
- 3.13. In relation to the zebra crossing it is accepted that the belisha beacons and poles would benefit from being refurbished and, as such, arrangements have been made to replace the equipment which will improve its visibility for approaching motorists and thereby potentially improving any lack of compliance at the crossing.
- 3.14. Clearly both assessments take into account the associated financial cost as part of the consideration and I am aware that criticism has previously been levelled at the Council for this. This approach is a nationally accepted methodology that all Local Highway Authorities adopt to assist in prioritising competing requests for the same facilities in the face of insufficient funds being available overall. As such all proposed measures need to be financially evaluated and pedestrian crossings are no different. This has long been recognised by the Department for Transport who compile national costs associated with road traffic collisions. This assessment provides a basis to evaluate competing schemes in terms of the 'economic rate of return' by evaluating the component costs associated with Road Traffic Collisions.
- 3.15. In relation to the general safety of pedestrians, Walsall Council takes road safety education seriously and undertakes a range of work with school children to improve both awareness and knowledge. Furthermore, where possible, parents and carers are included to assist in improving general understanding and appreciation of the difficulties faced by children as pedestrians. Unfortunately, it is not possible to completely remove all risks associated with crossing roads and so it is particularly important to promote responsibility for pedestrians. Through improving this awareness and knowledge any risks faced by pedestrians can be minimised.
- 3.16. To that end the majority of Year 7 students at Shire Oak have benefitted from transition training delivered on behalf of the West Midlands Road Safety Partnership. The workshop involved a two hour presentation highlighting the difficulties faced on the school journey and how to minimise them. The Council will continue to work with the school to reinforce key road safety messages.

3.17. The Council will also continue to work with local primary schools such as Walsall Wood Primary School as part of the Councils' Active Sustainable Travel and Road Safety (A\*Stars) programme. Furthermore, in line with the proposed roll out of the programme it has now been extended to some secondary schools including Shire Oak. The A\*Stars programme involves a range of initiatives promoted by schools to encourage sustainable journeys and improved road safety skills and awareness.

Jamie Morris

Executive Director (Neighbourhood Services)

5 September 2014

**Measures to encourage walking 2014/15**

Pos	Type of facility requested	Location	Estimated Cost (£)	Request by	Date request received	Date of survey	Count Ref	Vehicles (Average four peaks)	Pedestrians (Average four peaks)	% criteria	85th %ile	Road Width (m)	Public amenities	School	Open space	Existing facility	3 Years Accidents 1/11/10 - 31/10/13 ALL ACCS PEDS	FYRR	Accident and Other Score	Area Partnership area	Comments	
N/A	N/A	Upgrade signalised crossings	£60,000.00	Improvements to pedestrian crossing to facilitate safer walking routes																	Varios	
N/A	N/A	The Chuckery	£15,000.00	Contribution to Joint project with Sustrans																	St Matthews, Paddock, Palfrey, Pleck	
<b>TOTAL required for 2013/14</b>			<b>£75,000.00</b>																			

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1	Raised uncontrolled	Wisemore / St Pauls Street	£50,000.00	Clir Ansell/P Leighton	15/03/2011	07/04/2011	P6R16096	384.75	1031	153	8	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	70.00	St Matthews, Paddock, Palfrey, Pleck		
2	Puffin	Little Aston Road near The Green	£60,000.00	Councillor Rochelle	01/09/2005	17/01/2006		903.25	130.25	106	6.6	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	65.00	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood		
3	Zebra	Walsall Road, Darlaston	£40,000.00	Mushtaq Ahmed	30/04/2014	09/05/2014	Manual	1196	68	97	32.3	8.6	1	1	0	0	1	0	63.91	Darlaston, Bentley		
4	Puffin	Lichfield Road, Brownhills adj Great Charles Street	£60,000.00	Councillor Alan Paul	07/12/2005	10/01/2006		953.25	88.25	80	30	9.9	1	1	1	0	1	0	62.08	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield	On hold for possible inclusion in Brownhills package	
5	Refuge	A461 Lichfield Rd, Rushall (o/s Medical Centre)	£20,000.00	Clir Worral	17/04/2014	24/06/2014	TM	1575	72.75	180	11	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	60.00	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield		
6	Puffin - upgrade from zebra	Pool Hayes Lane near Castle Drive	£65,000.00	Clir Shires	Feb 2012 - Petition	23/02/2012		528.8	179.25	50	7.6	1	1	1	0	1	1	15	46.58	Willenhall, Short Heath		
7	Zebra	St Lawrence Way near Bus Station	£40,000.00	Simon Purohit, Regen	25/11/2011	24/11/2011	manual 1 day	1106.5	59	72	30.7	10.9	1	0	0	1	1	25	46.39	Darlaston, Bentley		
8	Puffin	Norton Road north of Green Lane, Pelsall (Convert extg Zebra)	£60,000.00	Mr R. Peach, Councillor Perry	20/07/2004	14/10/2004		862.25	58	43	7.7	1	1	1	0	1	2	17	36.91	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield		
9	Refuge	Old Birchills	£20,000.00	Gazanfer Ali	26/02/2014	13/01/2014	Manual	404.5	49.5	8	32.9	10	1	1	1	0	1	1	50	38.23	Blakenall, Blowich, Birchalls, Leamore	
10	Zebra	The Bridge o/s HSBC	£40,000.00	Clir Arif	27/07/2011	18/10/2011	P6N2009	148.5	1018.25	22	8.6	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	25	36.48	St Matthews, Paddock, Palfrey, Pleck	
11	Zebra	Chester Road	£40,000.00	Patricia Hodgetts	11/04/2014	29/04/2014	Manual	1313	20	34	33.7	7.1	1	1	0	0	1	1	25	36.29	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield	
12	Uncontrolled	Bham Rd nr Lodge Grove, Aldridge	£20,000.00	Clir Wilson	27/01/2014	06/02/2014	Manual	286	35.5	3	39.6	6.22	0	1	0	0	2	2	100	36.14	Blakenall, Blowich, Birchalls, Leamore	
13	Zebra	Lichfield Rd east of School Ave, Brownhills	£40,000.00	Gurdeep Sanghera Neighbourhood Partnerships	29/09/2008	02/12/2008		762	60.75	35	7.3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	34.11	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield		
14	Refuge	Weston Street nr Tame Street	£20,000.00	Mr Zahid Khan	31/03/2014	16/05/2014	Manual	853.5	42.5	31	33.8	10	0	1	0	1	1	1	50	32.37	Caldmore	Speed survey March 2013
15	Zebra	Dangerfield Lane near Stanley Road, Darlaston	£40,000.00	Mr G. Small	20/06/2005	18/10/2005		343.25	88	10	6.1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	29.15	Darlaston, Bentley	Combined survey	
16	Zebra	113 Pool Hayes Lane	£40,000.00	Clir Shires	25/07/2011	13/10/2011	P6R16099	714	34	17	7.5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	26.93	Willenhall, Short Heath		
17	Refuge	Lincoln Road o/s Chuckery School	£20,000.00	Mrs Elaine Dunn	07/04/2014	01/05/2014	Manual	185.5	109	4	0	7.7	1	1	0	0	0	0	26.50	St Matthews	Already traffic calmed	
18	Uncontrolled	Queslett Road East / Roundabout	£20,000.00	Clir. C Towe	07/09/2013	26/09/2013	C0190	852	21	15	36.9	7.5	1	1	1	0	0	0	26.10	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood		
19	Zebra	New Invention Square	£40,000.00	Traffic Management Section	21/10/2003	21/10/2003		144	75	2	5.2	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	25.62	Willenhall, Short Heath		
20	Zebra	Broad Lane Nr Blowich North Station	£40,000.00	Dawn Willis	14/03/2011	05/04/2011	P6R7223	891	30	24	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	24.53	Blakenall, Blowich, Birchalls, Leamore		
21	Puffin	Anchor Road	£60,000.00	Councillor Wilson	07/01/2013	16/01/2014	Manual	384.5	230.5	4	25	10.2	1	0	0	1	1	17	23.15	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood		
22	Zebra	Allens Lane	£40,000.00	Clir Perry	20/02/2012	20/03/2012	RR-342	252	44.3	3	34.4	5.6	0	1	1	0	0	0	21.13	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield		
23	Zebra	Hundred Acre Road	£40,000.00	Lynne Wearing	01/05/2012	12/07/2012	RR-57	177	81	3	7.3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	21.02	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield		
24	Zebra	Shannon Drive near Severn Avenue	£40,000.00	Councillor Cassidy	10/05/2006	25/05/2006		126.75	132.25	2	5.5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20.85	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood	Results combined from two surveys	
25	Ped Phase	Finger Post - Signal junction	£50,000.00	Ms. J. Edwards, Councillor Longhi	26/02/2004	16/12/2004		1001	14	14	6.7	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	20.61	Pelsall and Rushall-Sheffield	Likely to cause considerable delay - Strong objection from Police	
26	Refuge	Darlaston Road - Kings Hill Existing Zebra	£20,000.00	Councillor Bott	01/01/2013	30/01/2014	Manual	327	7	1	33.9	9	1	0	1	1	1	1	50	20.29	Darlaston, Bentley	
27	Refuge	Well Lane	£20,000.00	N. Thomas	23/03/2013	25/04/2013		133	33	1	18	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	20.23	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood		
28	Refuge	Darlaston Road - Kings Hill Scott Arms	£20,000.00	Councillor Bott	01/01/2013	30/01/2014	Manual	327	3.75	0	33.9	9	1	0	1	1	1	1	50	20.15	Darlaston, Bentley	

**Sites failing to meet criteria**

22	Zebra	Birmingham Road near Churnhill Road, Aldridge	£40,000.00	Mr. J. O'Neil, Councillor Rochelle	20/09/2005	17/01/2006		663	28	12	7	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	19.92	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood	Results combined from two surveys	
	Zebra	Brownhills Road near Coppice Road	£15,000.00	Resident	17/10/2002	17/10/2002		948.25	26.25	24	7.6	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	19.44	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield Aldridge North	Potential link to development	
	Zebra	The Green / St Georges Street	£40,000.00	SRS request	Oct-08	06/11/2008		750	18	10	8.5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	19.05	Darlaston, Bentley	Pedestrian was a facility	
	Puffin	Norton Road 150m north Fingerpost junction	£60,000.00	Ms J. Edwards, Councillor Longhi	02/12/2004	16/12/2004		833	13	9	6.7	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	18.61	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield		
	Puffin	Lindon Road near Clayhanger Road, Walsall Wood (Convert)	£60,000.00	Friezland residents association	20/08/2003	14/10/2003		830	49	34	6.4	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	18.50	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood	Possible inclusion in 2008/2009 local safety scheme	
	Zebra	Harden Road near Well Lane	£40,000.00	Mr P. Grainger	21/09/2006	12/10/2006		915	25	21	7.5	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	18.37	Blakenall, Blowich, Birchalls, Leamore	Parking issues may restrict the provision of any facility	
	Refuge	A461 High Street near Brookland Road (St Johns medical centre)	£20,000.00	Clir Sears	23/04/2013	20/04/2013	SKH041	1110	16	20	29.8	7.3	1	0	0	0	2	0	17.89	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood		
27	Puffin	Wolverhampton Rd 150m south-west Fingerpost junction	£60,000.00	Ms J. Edwards, Councillor Longhi	02/12/2004	16/12/2004		1075.25	5.25	6	6.4	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	17.43	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield		
	Puffin	Lichfield Rd 150m north-east Fingerpost junction	£60,000.00	Ms. J. Edwards, Councillor Longhi	02/12/2004	16/12/2004		1220	4	6	6.3	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	17.38	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield		
17	Zebra	Vicarage Road near Old Vicarage Close, Pelsall	£40,000.00	Ms Jennings, Councillor Longhi	09/07/2001	03/02/2004		1175.75	4	6	6.4	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	17.21	Brownhills, Pelsall, Rushall, Sheffield	Results combined from two surveys 03/02/04	
	Pelican	Walsall Road near Gordon Street	£60,000.00	Fallings Heath Committee		07/10/2010	16/08/2491	249	18	1	8	0	1	1	1	1	1	17	17.11	Darlaston, Bentley		
	Puffin	Broad Lane near Colliery Drive, Blowich	£60,000.00	Mrs Lawley, Councillors Bott & Pitt	23/03/2001	02/10/2003		903	6	5	8.6	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	16.96	Blakenall, Blowich, Birchalls, Leamore		
	Refuges	Aldridge Road near Bridle Lane	£20,000.00	Mrs Garrett	Oct-08	06/11/2008		1061	15	17	7.1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	16.75	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood		
25	Zebra	Darlaston Rd near Cemetery Rd (o/s The Globe PH)	£40,000.00	Mrs Mann	Oct-08	04/11/2008		1371	8	15	11	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	16.01	St Matthews, Paddock, Palfrey, Pleck	Location may be affected by by pass associated with Darlaston Strategic Development Area	
	Zebra	Cavendish Road near Edison Road, Beechdale	£40,000.00	Mrs Mellor	18/04/2005	12/05/2005		254	37	2	9	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	15.95	St Matthews and Birchills Leamore	Results combined from two surveys	
	Refuge	Darlaston Rd near Woden Road west	£20,000.00	Councillor Bott	01/10/2009	24/11/2009	P6R16078	537	8	2	8.2	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	15.92	Darlaston, Bentley	Results combined from two surveys	
	Refuge	Mellesh Road near Rushall Manor Road	£20,000.00	Clir Arif	15/04/2012	09/05/2012	AUTOPROGL6032	211	9	0	37.4	8.4	0	0	0	0	1	1	50	15.15		
	Footway	Aldridge Rd (Barr Common Farm to bus stops)	£10,000.00	John Mitchell	18/06/2013	02/12/2004		572	1	0	7.5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	15.13	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood		
	Refuge	Northgate (Alrewech Court)	£20,000.00	S. Jones Tenants Assn Alrewech Court	30/03/2011	13/09/2012	RR-405	505	0.75	0	7.3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	15.08	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood		
	Puffin	Essington Road near Wrighton Close	£60,000.00	Request following LSS consultation	10/11/2008	04/12/2008		1740	8	24	6.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14.69	Willenhall, Short Heath		
	Zebra	Bradley Lane near Hannah Rd, Moxley	£40,000.00	Ms J. Miles	25/11/2004	14/12/2005		604	23	8	7.1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	13.36	Darlaston, Bentley	Results combined from two surveys	
	Zebra	Leighwood Ave near Broad Meadow	£40,000.00	Miss J Cooper	21/10/2008	07/02/2008	P6R1638	1081	6	7	6.6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	12.80	Aldridge, Streety, Pheasey, Walsall Wood		
	Zebra	Aldridge Rd near Hundred Acre Rd, Streety	£40,000.00	Request following LSS consultation	22/11/2004	02/12/2004																