
DOWNHALL ROAD RAYLEIGH

PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to ask Members to consider the objections received to a proposal to introduce a zebra crossing on the above road.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Downhall Road is a Class III road joining the main A129 London Road, Rayleigh. It is a busy route carrying a high volume of traffic into Rayleigh. It is well used by pedestrians and, in particular, schoolchildren on the “walking bus” on their way to school, commuters to the station and local shoppers. A crossing point is being considered between the junction of the London Road and the entrance to The Travellers Joy.
- 2.2 Although an initial request was for a crossing point in the vicinity of Sheridan Close, visibility and proximity to the bend made the site unsuitable. In addition, traffic speeds are in excess of 35mph. Safety Audit recommendation is not to install zebra crossings where speeds are in excess of 35 mph.

3 PROPOSAL

- 3.1 To install a zebra crossing in the location, as shown in Appendix A. This proposal was advertised on site and in the local press for the required length of time. Three letters of objection were received and their comments are outlined below.

OBJECTOR	OBJECTIONS	E.C.C. COMMENTS
Mrs Clothier, 10 Downhall Road, Rayleigh	Crossing too near exit/entrance of Travellers Joy, vehicles exit too fast.	Recent speed check at the proposed crossing site in Downhall Rd shows the 85%ile speeds are 29-30 mph. It is unlikely that vehicles turning out of the Travellers Joy will be travelling at this speed.
	Site the crossing further up the road	Speeds are too high to introduce a zebra crossing further up the road.

OBJECTOR	OBJECTIONS	E.C.C. COMMENTS
Mr Wai Hang Che 8 Downhall Road Rayleigh	<p>Crossing is too near to the junction with London Road and the crossing will cause hold-ups. There are often queues around this junction in peak times</p> <p>Carers will experience parking problems Ambulance car cannot stop directly outside</p> <p>Son already experiences difficulty in driving in and out. This will make matters worse</p>	<p>Pedestrians will be able to take advantage of the queues to cross whilst traffic is stationary. At other times queuing should not be a problem. Safety Audit have not raised proximity to the junction as an issue.</p> <p>True it is an offence to park on zig zags. However, Downhall Rd is subject to No waiting at any time and No waiting Mon-Sat 8am-6pm outside the properties the introduction of zig zags will make no difference during this period. Visitors could be asked to park within the owners' driveways.</p> <p>It may well be easier due to raised awareness and the need to give and take. This can be monitored following installation</p>
Mrs Longbridge 6 Downhall Road	<p>Drivers are travelling too fast</p> <p>Reversing off the drive will be difficult</p>	<p>See comments above</p> <p>As in any reversing movement care must be taken and the introduction of the crossing should make no difference</p>

- 3.2 In conclusion, it is difficult to judge exactly what effect this improvement will have on the highway network. Similar objections were raised when Essex County Council installed crossings in Grove Road and Clarence Road. Both sites demonstrated congestion, side turnings in close proximity and complications due to the nearby bus stop and the school. The crossings were installed and have been successful additions to pedestrian facilities in the area with no adverse effects on the travelling public.
- 3.3 As with any new installation it will take a little time for users to become familiar with the operation of the facility and the adjustments that have to be made approaching the site. However, this will provide a much needed crossing point that will be welcomed by many pedestrians in the area.

4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 All costs to be met by the 2005/6 Locally Determined Budget that is still to be presented to Committee.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This proposal was formally advertised from 31 March to 22 April 2005.

7 PARISH IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The scheme has the support of County Councillor Mrs Webster, the local District Member Cllr Lumley and of Rayleigh Town Council.

8 RECOMMENDATION

8.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

That the zebra crossing be installed in the location as shown on the attached plan (Appendix A)

N McCullagh

Area Manager, Transportation and Operational Services
Essex County Council

Background Papers:-

All correspondence is held by the Area Manager at the Area Office Basildon

For further information please contact Lyn Harvey on:-

Tel:- 01268 297500

E-Mail:- lyn.harvey@essexcc.gov.uk