



## **OBJECTIONS AND APPEALS REPORT**

Date Written	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
Report Author	Martin Stark
Committee Division	Objections and Appeals Sub Committee
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2016

*To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen*

### **Proposed Toucan Crossing - Galon Uchaf Road - Consideration of Objections**

#### **1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To advise Councillors of an objection received to the recently advertised Notice of Establishment for a Toucan Crossing at Galon Uchaf Road and to recommend approval of the proposal as intended.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATION that**

2.1 The objection received to the advertised Notice of Establishment for a Toucan Crossing at Galon Uchaf Road be noted but discounted on road safety grounds so as to allow the introduction of the crossing as intended.

#### **3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Galon Uchaf Road proposed Toucan Crossing forms part of a Safe Routes in Community Scheme (SRIC) associated with Penydre High School. The overall scheme includes installation of 8 crossings in total with widening of footpaths in the area. The aim of the scheme is to improve walking and cycling links for the communities of Dowlais/Pantysgallog/Galon Uchaf and Gurnos. The SRIC will improve access to the local schools, in particular Penydre High School, Prince Charles Hospital, shops and leisure facilities at Cyfarthfa Park.

- 3.2 The SRIC scheme will allow pedestrians and cyclists to avoid a roundabout at Galon Uchaf and the area around Pant Industrial Estate where the volume of vehicles is higher due to a nearby junction with the A465 Trunk Road. Currently, pupils have to cross roads at Gurnos Road, Galon Uchaf Road and Rocky Road which have a 30mph speed limit. The SRIC scheme has been developed with the involvement of Penydre High School. The headteacher and parents have raised concerns regarding the existing route and the project will help road safety and reduce these concerns raised.
- 3.3 The installation of controlled crossings will make the area a safer place to walk and cycle to Penydre High School. The overall scheme will improve accessibility to and from School, encourage walking and cycling and will improve health and fitness levels and allow the community to enjoy open spaces more. Penydre High school has existing cycle parking facilities which can be used to assist cycling to and from school. The SRIC crossing proposals will make the walk a more pleasant and safer experience for not just the school children but the wider community also. This scheme also links well with the Active Travel (Wales) Bill in improving and promoting walking and cycling routes within the County Borough.
- 3.4 The development of this scheme will provide a safer walking and cycling route and will encourage pupils who would not have previously considered cycling or walking as a commuter option. The SRIC scheme will help road safety in achieving a reduction in child casualties in line with the Welsh Governments Road Safety Strategy for reducing casualties on roads.

### 3.5 **CONSULTATION/PUBLIC NOTICE**

- 3.6 Consultation was carried out with Penydre School involving meetings and to discuss the current route to and from the School. A consultation letter drop was carried out to residents in the vicinity of the Galon Uchaf Road Toucan crossing in October 2015. In accordance with Statutory procedures, public notice was given of the County Borough Council's intention to establish a Toucan Crossing and included a Notice advertised in the Merthyr Express on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2015 stating that objections to the Notice should be returned by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Public Notices were also displayed on site. Details of the Notice and a plan showing the location is indicated in Appendix A for Councillors' information.

### 4.0 **OBJECTION**

- 4.1 The Council has received an objection from a local resident on Galon Uchaf Road to the proposal to introduce a Toucan Crossing on Galon Uchaf Road and is attached in Appendix A for consideration.
- 4.2 Officers have carefully considered the objection and make the following observations.
- 4.3 A consultation letter drop was carried out to residents in the vicinity of the Galon Uchaf Road Toucan crossing in October 2015 and included properties at the crossing location. Public notice was given of the County Borough Council's intention to establish a Toucan Crossing and included a Notice advertised in the Merthyr

Express on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2015 stating that objections to the Notice should be returned by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016. Public Notices were also displayed on site.

- 4.4 The Crossing and associated zig-zag roadmarkings is located north of the property submitting the objection and the zig-zag roadmarkings will not reach the property. The proposed crossing will not affect the ramp as the ramp is within the boundary of the property. Galon Uchaf Road has an existing Prohibition of Waiting At Any Time (double yellow line) Traffic regulation Order along its length which prohibits parking on both sides of this road. On-street parking is prohibited due to these parking restrictions. There is already a parking restriction outside this property.
- 4.5 The Toucan crossing is proposed at this location as there are existing parking restrictions which prohibit parking on both sides of this road near many residential properties. In addition, the crossing is located near the junctions with Sixth and Ninth Avenues to provide continuity for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road at this point. The crossing will improve accessibility and road safety for pupils travelling to and from Penydre High School.
- 4.6 Council Officers consider the Toucan Crossing will provide an important facility for pedestrians and cyclists to cross Galon Uchaf Road at this location and should be introduced for road safety reasons as intended. Parking restrictions are already in place prohibiting parking on both sides of this road.
- 4.7 In making a decision the Appeals Committee is required to consider the objection in determining the outcome of the proposal to introduce the Toucan Crossing on Galon Uchaf Road.
- 4.8 Officers have carefully considered the objection and consider the objection should be noted but discounted on road safety grounds so as to allow the introduction of the Crossing as intended.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 5.1 The cost of this Toucan Crossing and also the other crossings associated with the Safe Routes in Community Scheme is being met by available Welsh Government funding in the 2015/16 financial year.

## **6.0 SINGLE INTEGRATED PLAN AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT SUMMARY**

- 6.1 The Single Integrated Plan & Sustainability Impact Assessment has been completed and the proposals positively impact on a number of aspects of the Corporate Plan and Single Integrated Plan, including People in Merthyr Tydfil have the opportunity and aspiration to learn and develop their skills to maximise their potential, People in Merthyr Tydfil benefit from a strong, sustainable and diverse economy, People, who live and work in Merthyr Tydfil are supported to enjoy a healthier and better quality of life, Sustainable Development - enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations and Financial Sustainability of Public Services. No negative impacts have been identified.

## **7.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) form has been prepared for the purpose of this report. It has been found that a full assessment is required. The form can be accessed on the Council's website/intranet via 'Equality Impact Assessment' link.

7.2 The positive impacts of the proposed Toucan Crossing are as follows:-

- (i) The Crossing at Galon Uchaf Road is proposed to improve walking and cycling links for the communities of Dowlais/Pantysgallog/Galon Uchaf and Gurnos.
- (ii) The crossing is located near the junctions with Sixth and Ninth Avenue to provide continuity for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road at this point.
- (iii) Reduce concerns raised by the headteacher and parents on the existing routes available.
- (iv) The crossing will improve accessibility and safety for pupils travelling to and from Penydre High school.
- (v) The SRIC scheme has been developed with the involvement of Penydre High School. The installation of controlled crossings will make the area a safer place to walk and cycle to Penydre High School. The overall scheme will improve accessibility to and from School, encourage walking and cycling and will improve health and fitness levels and allow the community to enjoy open spaces more.
- (vi) Penydre High school has existing cycle parking facilities which can be used for cycling to and from school. The SRIC crossing proposals will make the walk a more pleasant and safer experience for not just the school children but the wider community also.
- (vii) The development of this route would provide a safer walking and cycling route and will encourage pupils who would not have previously considered cycling or walking as a commuter option.
- (viii) The Crossing will also help change pupils' behaviour/attitude to active travel.

7.3 There are no negative impacts. The proposed crossing will not affect the ramp outside this property.

7.4 The proposal to introduce these improvements involves the provision of a Toucan Crossing at Galon Uchaf Road, the location of which is indicated in Appendix A.

**ELLIS COOPER**  
**CORPORATE DIRECTOR**  
**(PLACE AND TRANSFORMATION)**

**COUNCILLOR DAVID JONES**  
**CABINET MEMBER FOR**  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES AND**  
**PUBLIC PROTECTION**

<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>		
<b>Title of Document(s)</b>	<b>Document(s) Date</b>	<b>Document Location</b>
Traffic Management File H10.0	Ongoing	Traffic Management Section, Unit 20 Pentrebach
<b>Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council's Constitution?</b>		<b>No</b>

***Consultation has been undertaken with the Corporate Management Team in respect of each proposal(s) and recommendation(s) set out in this report.***