

DECISION AUDIT FORM

For use by Assistant Directors in Exercising (Category 3) or delegated powers
– (Protocol for Officer Delegation)

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DESIGN AND ENGINEERING TEAM

DECISION: Downs Road – Rendlesham Rd Junction Raised Zebra Crossing

Agree to:

- 1.0 Note the favourable outcome of the public consultation exercise.
- 2.0 Give approval to proceed with the implementation of a raised zebra crossing at the Downs Road – Rendlesham Road junctions.
- 3.0 Give approval to advertise the necessary Traffic Orders and Statutory Notices associated with the raised junction table and zebra crossing.

Reason:-

The proposals will:

- 1.0 Improve pedestrian accessibility by providing safe formal crossing facilities at the junction.
- 2.0 Improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists by installing additional traffic calming measures that will reduce vehicle speeds at the junction.

BACKGROUND

The Council recently received a signed petition from a large number of residents and other members of the community in the Rendlesham Road area asking for improved pedestrian crossing facilities at the Downs Road – Rendlesham Road junction.

In turn, the Council carried out preliminary investigations into vehicle volumes and speeds to determine whether there was a strong case for carrying out improvements at the junction.

Based on the information collected the Council developed proposals to improve crossing facilities at the junction.

PROPOSALS

The proposals include:

- Installing a raised junction table at the Downs Road – Rendlesham Road junction. The raised junction will help provide step free formal and informal crossings for pedestrians and help reduce traffic speeds.
- Installing a zebra crossing on the western arm of the raised junction table at Downs Road.
- Refurbishing the pavements around the Downs Road – Rendlesham Road junction.
- Removing the speed cushions on Rendlesham Road next to the Downs Road junction.
- Replacing the existing parking bays outside 3 Downs Road with 'At any Time' waiting and loading restrictions.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation started on 21st September and finished on 9th October 2015. In total, seven hundred (700) copies of the public consultation document were sent out to residents around the Rendlesham Road area and uploaded on the web.

The consultation document is attached to this report for reference.

Stakeholder Consultation

Prior to sending out the documents to residents key stakeholder groups were consulted including the Council's Parking Service, Living Streets in Hackney, London Cycling Campaign in Hackney, The London Fire Brigade, Age Concern (representing Disability Backup) and the Met Police. TFL Buses were also consulted. All the key stakeholder groups were generally supportive of the proposals and where possible their comments/suggestions were taken on board.

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and the ward councillors for Hackney Central had approved the consultation document before it was sent out.

A summary of the consultation results is shown on the table below.

Paper Leaflets sent out	Total responses received	Paper responses received	Web based responses received	Total in favour	Paper responses in favour	Web based responses in favour	Total not in favour	Undecided
700	442 (62.1%)	57 (12.9%)	385 (87.1%)	428 (96.8%)	48 (10.8)	380 (85.9%)	12 (3 by web (2.7%))	2 (0.4%)

The proposals were equally supported by those who submitted their responses on the web and by post achieving a 96.8% overall support for the scheme.

Main comments in support of the proposals**1.0 Necessary and useful, long overdue, strongly in favour**

This comment was received from twenty - nine people.

Officers' response:

Shows the proposals are well supported by the public

2.0 Commercial traffic on Rendlesham Road and high traffic speeds

There is a lot of commercial traffic on an estate road like Rendlesham Road and this tends to cause congestion. There are several schools in this area and high traffic speeds create a dangerous environment for kids. Many school children use bikes on this road and can be quite vulnerable.

Officers' Response:

Rendlesham Road is traffic calmed for its entire length however it is a bus route with on street parking. Any further traffic calming improvements would need to be carefully investigated before implementation.

3.0 Illegal parking, parking on pavements

This comment was received from three people

Officers' response:

Rendlesham Road is currently in an unrestricted parking area. Parking on pavements is illegal and can be monitored by increasing the presence of parking enforcement in the area.

4.0 Proposals will make crossing safer for school kids and elderly

This comment was received from forty one people who thought that the proposals would improve safety, particularly for schools kids and the elderly.

Officers' response:

The proposals will improve safety for pedestrians including vulnerable road users such as school children and the elderly.

5.0 Similar proposals at the Kenninghall Road Junction and other junctions

This comment appeared on four responses. More requests to install zebra crossings at Benthall Road / Evering Road and Downs Rd – Rectory Road junctions were also made.

Officers' response:

This comment will be passed on to the various departments for further investigation and analysis.

6.0 This is a dangerous junction that needs attention

This comment was received from fourteen people who were concerned that the junction was too dangerous for pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.

Officers' response:

These proposals will help address this problem.

7.0 Cycle friendly crossing required

This comment was received from two people who mentioned that many school children use bikes to cross Rendlesham Road and Downs Road into the park.

Officers' response:

At this stage the primary remit of the scheme is to improve conditions for pedestrians, but it is believed that the proposed design will also assist cyclists.

Main objections raised by the public

The main points raised in objection to the proposals along with Officers' response are as follows:

1.0 Parking bays outside 3 Downs Road

Four of the six responses received with an objection mentioned something about the negative impact of removing parking outside 3 Downs Road. These were all from residents who thought that the loss of parking would have a direct negative impact on their lives.

Officers' response:

The Council will generally look to minimise the impact of any scheme on residents parking where possible to do so but in this case the benefits to pedestrian safety, accessibility and amenity significantly outweigh the impact of the loss of parking.

2.0 Absence of crossing facilities for cyclists

The proposals do not provide crossing facilities for cyclists from the popular cycle route from the park. A redesign of the junction with cycle crossing facilities would be better. This comment was received from one resident.

Officers' response:

At this stage the primary remit of the scheme is to improve conditions for pedestrians, but it is believed that the proposed design will also assist cyclists.

3.0 Zebra Crossing better on Rendlesham Road side / extent pavements to Rendlesham Road as well

This comment was received from four people.

Officers' response:

The proposals were designed after carefully analysing which side would provide the best facilities and the budgetary implications involved.

4.0 Waste of money there are more dangerous junctions in the borough

This comment was received from two people.

Officers' response:

The two people represent only 0.5% of the total responses received.

5.0 Pavements to extent to Rendlesham Road as well

This comment was received from two people.

Officers' response:

The two people represent only 0.5% of the total responses received.

IMPACTS**Permanent Impacts**

The proposals will help increase accessibility for pedestrians when crossing the junction.

The raised junction table will help reduce traffic speeds at the junction.

The proposals will require that four parking spaces outside 3 Downs Road be removed.

Temporary Impacts

Whilst pavement works are in progress, normal chapter 8 signing and guarding will be in place.

A road closure on Rendlesham Road and Downs Road will be in place for up to a week when the installation of the junction table will be in progress.

The works could be carried out when the schools are closed to reduce the inconvenience brought about by road closures and long diversions.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding has been secured for the introduction of these proposals during the 2015 / 16 financial year through the Developing Borough Infrastructure.

The total budget for these works is £80,000.00

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the proposals outlined in this decision audit be agreed and taken to implementation stage.

CONCLUSIONS

I have noted the contents of this decision audit and the associated documents and agree with the recommendations contained therein.

Signed: - 

Dated: - 

Tom McCourt

Assistant Director - Public Realm

cc Andrew Cunningham – Head of Streetscene

cc Councillor Demirci – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods



Public Consultation

Downs Road - Rendlesham Road Junction
Raised zebra crossing proposals

August 2015

have  say

 **Hackney**

Background

The Council is committed to making Hackney's roads safer for everyone living, working or visiting the borough. Helping to create an environment that will encourage more walking and cycling is a key part of the Council's Transport vision and an essential part of Hackney's Community Strategy. To achieve these aims, the Council has developed a programme of schemes to provide a safer and more accessible street environment for all users.

The Council recently received a signed petition from a large number of residents and other members of the public in the Rendlesham Road area asking for improved pedestrian crossing facilities at the Downs Road/Rendlesham Road junction. In order to support a case for making improvements at this location the Council has completed a preliminary investigation looking at vehicle volume and speed at the junction and the level of pedestrian crossing demand, particularly amongst children and other vulnerable road users.

Based on the information collected and assessed during the investigation the Council has now developed proposals to provide improved crossing facilities for pedestrians at the junction.

This consultation seeks the views of local residents and businesses on the measures proposed.

The Proposals include:

1. Installing a raised junction table at the Downs Road/Rendlesham Road junction with a zebra crossing on the western arm of Downs Road. The raised junction will help reduce vehicle speeds and provide step free crossing facilities for pedestrians on all three arms of the junction.
2. Refurbishing the pavements around the Downs Road/Rendlesham Road junction.
3. Removing the existing speed cushions on Rendlesham Road next to the Downs Road junction.

The proposals will affect an existing residents' parking bay situated outside 3 Downs Road. Approximately four car parking spaces will be removed.

For an overview of the proposals, please refer to the drawing enclosed.

Consultation

This document sets out Hackney Council's proposals for improvements to be carried out at the Downs Road/Rendlesham Road junction.

Your views are very important in the council's decision-making process. Please read through the information in this document and return the questionnaire by **24 September 2015**.

What happens next?

Your views will be taken into account as part of the detailed design process. Works are expected to start in **November 2015** should we get a positive response. May we take this opportunity to thank you for replying to this consultation.

How to give your views

Please complete the questionnaire enclosed, then wet the gummed edges and fold in half. The questionnaire is already addressed to us and does not need a stamp so you can just put into the post. Please return by **24 September 2015**.



For more information contact Hackney Service Centre on **020 8356 2897**.

Alternatively email:

info@hackney.gov.uk or visit

Hackney.gov.uk

If you would like to find out what this document says please tick the appropriate box, put your name, address and phone number at the bottom of this page and return it to the address below.

Bengali

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Somali

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French

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Kurdish

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Turkish

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Urdu

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Chinese

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