

**This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.**

### **Whitchurch Road / Flaxland Avenue - Consultation Report**

A consultation was held on the above scheme proposal between 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 with the purpose of obtaining information from the local community, in order to improve the scheme and if possible address any local concerns.

Four responses were received from members of the public during this period. Additionally, two enquiries were received in advance of this consultation exercise, in response to the former Ward Councillor's newsletter that made reference to this scheme proposal.

The responses received as part of this consultation exercise can be summarised as follows:

#### **Summary of responses received:**

- 1 Supports scheme
- 2 Support scheme with additional comments
- 1 Comments / suggestions
- 0 Disagree

The responses received prior to this consultation exercise can be summarised as follows:

#### **Summary of responses received:**

- 0 Supports scheme
- 0 Support scheme with additional comments
- 0 Comments / suggestions
- 2 Disagree

In view of the feedback received and further consideration over the operation of the crossing facility and junctions, additional pedestrian and vehicle surveys were undertaken. Following this further investigation work and liaison with the previous and current Ward Councillors, the scheme has been revised as attached.

The current revised scheme entails a larger tabled area and footway widening on the southern side and build-outs on the two side roads, to facilitate the tabled junction.

As part of the assessment, signal controlled crossing facilities were discounted as it would be necessary to relocate the crossing point to 20 metres or greater away from the junction, which would move them further from the pedestrian desire lines. The arrangements shown for the zebra crossing are currently within national design guidance tolerances.

Responses received as part of the consultation exercise are as follows:

Comment 1: *I am a resident who lives in Quentin Street and works in UHW as a doctor. The proposal to have a pedestrian crossing between Whitchurch Road/ Flaxland Avenue is an excellent idea and one that will make my journey to and from work much easier and safer in particular after working long shifts.*

Response: N/A

Comment 2: *Cars coming off Gabalfa roundabout are often coming down Whitchurch Road quite fast. Due to the bend in the road it's difficult to see them till they close when standing near No 292, which also means they will not see the crossing till they are quite close to it. A crossing nearer No 300 gives a much better view in both direction for both cars and pedestrians.*

Response: Comments have been noted and will be given full consideration as part of the scheme's development. It should be noted however, that the current scheme proposal does not affect the current parking arrangement. By relocating the crossing near 300 would require a section of parking to be removed due to the extent of zig-zag markings. Advance warning signs and a speed table will be included to mitigate the reduced visibility. It is likely that by providing a facility at this location, away from the desire line, the facility would not be used.

Comment 3: *Could I also ask that consideration be given to providing a bus shelter as indicated below as this is the only bus stop on the city centre bound side of the road on Whitchurch Road without a shelter. The proposed build out of the pavement would more than accommodate this with regards to maintaining clearance on the pavement. To make this more cost effective there are four shelters currently present on the Mynachdy side of Gabalfa Interchange and surely one of these could be relocated here due to the lack of services that now stop there.*

Response: The provision of a shelter at this location falls outside the scope of the scheme.

Comment 4: *I would like to say how invaluable this crossing facility will be to local residents and people needing to cross Whitchurch Road at this point, often to get to or from Heath Hospital. Whitchurch Road is almost impossible to cross at times due to heavy traffic and the high speed the traffic uses along the road. Sometimes it takes a few minutes before people are able to cross. This is especially so for the elderly, those with pushchairs and those with walking difficulties. The scheme would have only a very limited impact on current parking regulations because most of the roadway that will be changed has double yellow lines and no resident parking anyway.*

Response: N/A

**Comments received prior to this consultation exercise:**

*Comment 1b: I was extremely disappointed that the first notification that I had regarding this proposal was through a Gabalfa Lib/Dem Focus Team Newsletter stating that this had been a campaign for the last year. At no time have I or my closest neighbours been informed or consulted in any way about this proposal. There has been a complete lack of communication with the residents who will be mostly affected by the proposed zebra crossing; I find this to be rather shocking and I am extremely disappointed in the local councillors in this regard. According to the Lib Dem newsletter dated Summer 2016, "There is a full consultation pack available at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/transportprojects](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/transportprojects).' Despite following several links on the site, I am unable to locate such a document and am sending this initial letter in response to the proposal.*

Response: The Council's Consultation process had not commenced. The information was available when the Council undertook its official consultation process.

*Comment 2b: The proposed site for the crossing according to the Lib Dem letter is near to a bend in the road and ahead of two junctions, a bus stop and a series of metal railings along one side of the road. I am very concerned and worried about the safety implications of this proposal. My main worry is that there would children will walk/run across what they perceive to be a 'safe' Zebra crossing that clearly is in the worst possible location.*

Response: All crossings carry a certain element of risk, each varying in perceived and actual hazards, but all require a two way interaction between the driver and pedestrian waiting to cross the road.

Visibility on the southern side of the junction is good and as part of the amendments to the scheme, a section of the railings will be removed along with some footway widening. Visibility splays will also be checked to determine whether the remaining section of guardrail (that is in place due to the level difference between the footway and carriageway), is replaced with railings that have offset bars that provide improved visibility. Visibility is more restricted on the northern side. To mitigate this, a speed table and advanced warning will be necessary. The footway has also been built-out to improve the line of sight.

*Comment 3b: There are metal railings extended along the length of Whitchurch Road that finish at 147. Opposite the railings there is a bus stop. As a result, the area that would be used for the zebra crossing is the only area along the length of the road that allows access for, ambulance services, fire engines and emergency vehicles, rubbish collections (all wheelie bins are taken here as there is no other access), taxis and vehicles for disabled and elderly residents in particular, deliveries and goods.*

Response: As part of the amendments to the scheme, some of the footway on the southern side of the road will be widened and a section of the guardrail will be removed to improve access, available footway space and visibility. These comments have been noted and will be considered as part of the detailed design process. It should be noted

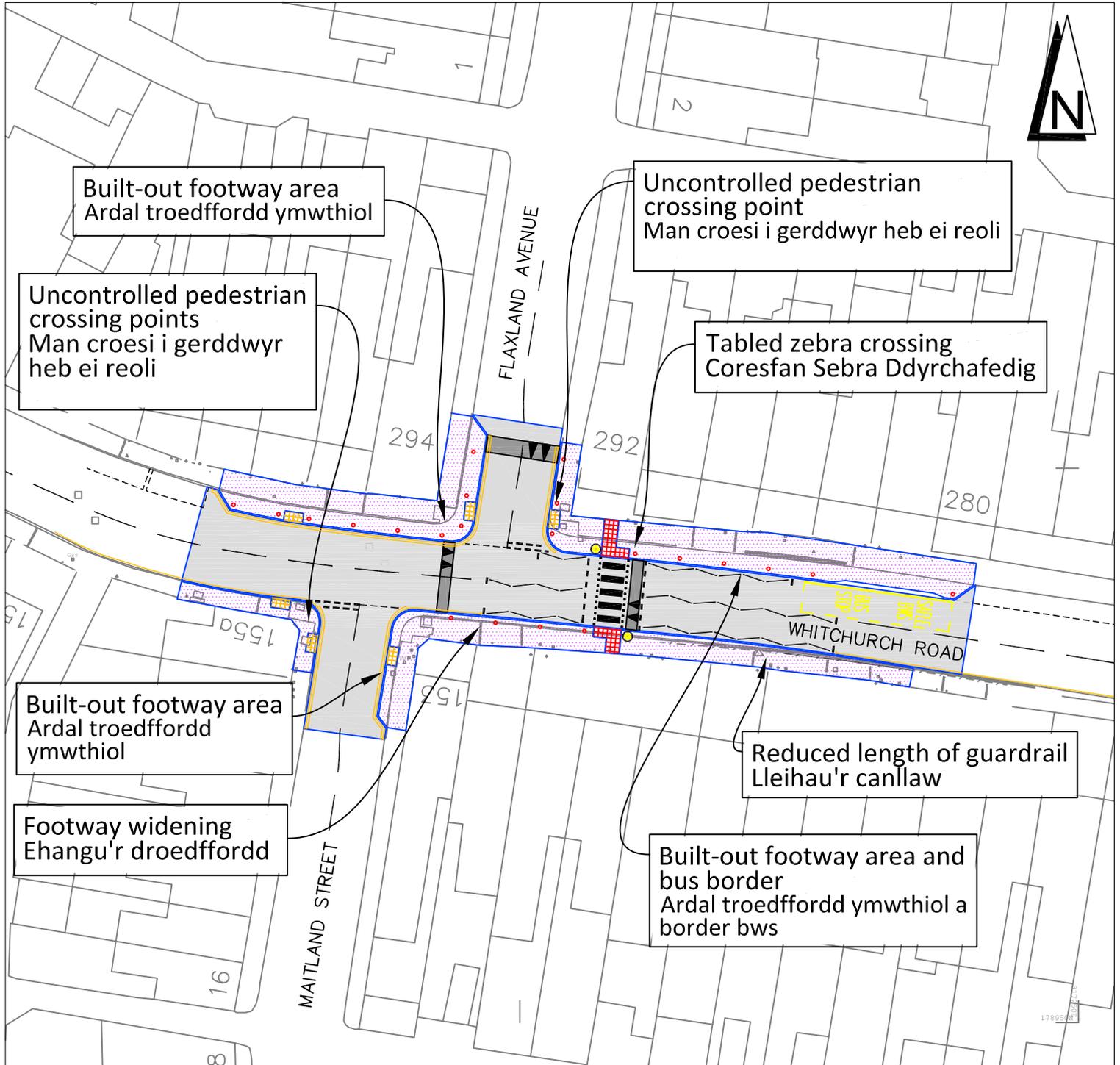
that emergency services are permitted to stop on zig-zag markings in the event of an emergency.

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**Following the recent consultation on a traffic management proposal, the Council is preparing to implement the scheme based on the revised plan shown.**

Further details about this consultation are available at [www.cardiff.gov.uk/TransportProjects](http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/TransportProjects) using the 'view consultations' link. Alternatively, please e-mail [TransportProjects@cardiff.gov.uk](mailto:TransportProjects@cardiff.gov.uk) or telephone 029 2087 3250 to request a paper copy of the post-consultation report.