Grangetown: Taffs Mead Embankment: Zebra Crossing

Consultation Report

Project No: CO17076

A consultation was held on the above scheme proposals between 10/01/2018 and 24/01/2018.

The purpose of the consultation was to obtain information from the local community in order to improve the scheme and if possible address any local concerns.

From the 25 properties consulted and 2 site notices displayed on site, 3 individual responses were received.

1  Supports scheme,
2  Supports scheme and provided additional comments/suggestions

The concerns and comments are summarised in *italics* below, along with the Council's response.

Recommendation
In view of the below it is proposed to proceed with the implementation of the scheme as outlined in the consultation plan.

Issue – requesting 20mph speed limit
“My email is to request the council considers a 20mph speed limit on the road also”

“A speed *limit of 30mph is generally acknowledged to be too high across most of the city urban areas, especially as actual speeds generally exceed this. The whole area should be at least be 20mph (Clare Rd/Pendyris St/Penarth Rd/Taff mead Embankment and all streets bound by them). It would be safer for all, and cheaper (with less 20mph/30mph”

The Council has a city-wide approach to supporting lower speeds, particularly where people live. Following the introduction of the 2-year 20mph Pilot in Cathays and Plasnewydd, new 20mph speed limits have recently been introduced in Riverside (Pontcanna) and parts of Canton.

The Council is currently developing a scheme to introduce a 20mph zone in the Grangetown area, which will include Taffs Mead Embankment and the adjacent streets, and this will be implemented when funding is available in the future.
Issue – proposed build-outs

Resident stated that “Pavement build outs are dangerous for cyclists and are unnecessary”.

The build-outs will provide pedestrians with a shorter crossing distance and also improve the inter-visibility between pedestrians and the approaching vehicles.

Site observations have confirmed that there is currently a significant level of parking which takes place within the adjacent resident’s bays and the pay & display bays, by providing build-outs this will ensure that the parking lost due to the zebra crossing will be kept to a minimum and this will reduce the impact on the local residents and their visitors.

Issue – lack of pedestrian facilities

Resident stated “Key natural crossing points to the city centre for people walking or cycling are at the eastern end of Merches Gardens (which is the only place you propose a crossing), the dangerous corner of Pendyris St/Taffs Mead Embankment and the junction of Pentre St with Taff Mead Embankment.”

The funding secured for this scheme is only sufficient to provide a crossing in the vicinity of Merches Gardens, and it will not be possible to extend the scheme at this stage.

An initial assessment of the junctions at Pendyris St/Taffs Mead Embankment and at Pentre St/Taffs Mead Embankment shows that these locations will need further investigation to determine if any road safety measures can be justified. If measures are required they will be added to our programme to be implemented on site when funding is available. These locations will be included in our investigation of all road safety and accessibility issues in the City. We anticipate that the Area Investigation Report for 2018 will be available on the council’s website (www.cardiff.gov.uk/TransportProjects), or upon request, early in 2019, where you will be able to see the outcome of the investigations and any planned action.

Issue – traffic calming

Resident commented “the speed bumps you propose need to be real ones that actually slow down traffic”. “The few speed bumps/cushions you currently have along Pendyris St are lethal for cyclists, and generally ineffective.”

The design of the speed tables will include ramp gradients of 1 in 14, with a plateau length of 6m and a ramp height of 75mm.

The existing traffic calming on Pendyris St includes speed cushions, and we do not propose to install speed cushions on Taffs Mead Embankment. The traffic calming proposed for Taffs Mead Embankment will be full-width speed tables, these are more effective in reducing vehicle speeds than speed cushions.
Issue – traffic flow
Resident commented “I think the fundamental problem here is that Taffs Mead / Pendyris is used by far too many cars as a short cut. Now ideally if it could be a local traffic only area, or the ends blocked off in some way that would be great”.

This issue is outside of the scope of this project, however we shall arrange for this location to be reviewed during the Annual Area Investigation into road safety and accessibility concerns. We anticipate that the Area Investigation Report for 2018 will be available on the council’s website (www.cardiff.gov.uk/TransportProjects), or upon request, early in 2019, where you will be able to see the outcome of the investigations and any planned action.

Issue – ramp construction
Resident commented “the zebra crossing should be like the one on Clare Road, and have an incline made of rubber or similar durable material that doesn't cause vibrations as do the current tarmac road humps, as well as encourage traffic to slow down”

The choice of ramp construction will be made during the detailed design stage, however I would advise that we are likely to use in situ tarmac ramps at this location, rather than pre-formed rubber ramps. There is a small vertical upstand at the base of the rubber ramps which tarmac ramps do not have, there is a smoother transition onto the ramp than the pre-formed ramps and therefore tarmac ramps emit less noise and vibration. I would advise that speed ramps are the only method currently available to us to effectively reduce vehicle speeds in order to improve road safety for vulnerable road users, however there may be noise and/or vibrations when large vehicles drive over the ramps.

Issue – ramp condition
Resident commented “The road hump to the North of the zebra crossing needs to be re-designed and re-made. It is currently de-graded and not maintained”

The concerns regarding the condition of the existing ramp have been forwarded to the Asset Management team. We have requested that they inspect the ramp and undertake any repairs, or renewal, as necessary.

Issue – enforcement
Better traffic enforcement on Rugby International Major Stadium Event days. Motorists have parked on the gardens in Merches Gardens, on which you're not even allowed to play ball games! And more rigorous issuing of parking permits for this area as parking is now extremely limited.

The comments regarding enforcement of parking restrictions have been forwarded to the Civil Enforcement Team for their attention.
Support for the scheme
*I have no objection to the zebra crossing, it makes sense as with passed cars both sides, it is sometimes difficult to find a safe place to cross.*

*The zebra crossing idea is very good and will make pedestrians lives much safer.*

This document is available in Welsh / Mae’r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg.
Following the recent consultation on a traffic management proposal, the Council is preparing to implement the scheme on the revised plan shown.

Further details about this consultation are available at www.cardiff.gov.uk/TransportProjects using the 'view consultations' link. Alternatively, please e-mail TransportProjects@cardiff.gov.uk or telephone 029 2087 3802 to request a paper copy of the post-consultation report.