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Western Avenue – Caewal Road – Proposed Toucan Crossing Consultation Report

Project No: CO18269

A consultation was held on the above scheme proposals between 10/08/2019 and 30/08/2019.

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 50 properties consulted and 4 site notices displayed on site, 13 individual responses were received.

14 Supports scheme, some provided additional comments/suggestions

No responses were opposed to the scheme however there are some comments that have been addressed below

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 of a Toucan Crossing and a change of Speed Limit for Western Avenue from 40mph to 30mph (subject to the legal Traffic Regulation Order process).

Issues related to Pollution

“However, as the proposed crossing has the potential to adversely impact on nearby residential properties in terms of light pollution, increased noise levels and air quality, could you please provide me with details of both the studies undertaken to assess the impacts of the proposed scheme and the mitigation measures proposed.”

Response -

It is acknowledged that road traffic emissions (particulate matter (PM) and primary/ secondary nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)) are the primary contributing factor to poor air quality in Cardiff. Cardiff Council are very aware of the concerns for air quality impacts and committed to achieving levels as low as reasonably practicable. It is documented that the level of emissions decreases with increased distance from the kerbside and so any localised increase will predominately be reduced at any nearby residential property. The Council needs to balance the benefits that will be gained from road safety measures, in terms of saving lives and reducing injuries, to any small increase in emissions that may be caused. In order to improve air quality, as well as contribute to health improvements in Cardiff, an increased use of sustainable and active travel alternatives is essential.

The Council is aware of the concerns upon children's health linked to air pollution issues associated with traffic around schools. Whilst it is appreciated that increased traffic flows during peak commute times in the morning and afternoon may look to cause short term

spikes in concentrations, the Council has undertaken monitoring at a number of of locations across Cardiff which indicate that levels at these locations are below air quality standards for NO₂.

Comments regarding vehicle speeds

"I would agree that there is a problem with traffic going too fast in both directions: besides the traffic lights is there any plan to introduce enforcement? I think the speed cameras on the A48 through Ely are effective, and I would think that the same would happen here."

"We would like to suggest the siting of speed cameras on Western Avenue to ensure the new speed limit is observed"

Response - Speed Enforcement is a matter for the police and the Council has no powers in this respect. Speed cameras and red light cameras can only be installed when the site meets the Welsh Government criteria, further information can be found at www.GoSafe.org.uk and selecting the link "where we place cameras".

Issues relating to vehicles currently turning right out of Caewal Road and also doing U Turns

The installation of the crossing should also prevent cars emerging from the southern end of Caewal Rd on to Western Avenue in an easterly direction and performing u turns in order to drive in a westerly direction.

"I welcome improvements for pedestrians, however, I'm concerned that the possible removal of the central island will put pedestrians at greater risk.

Several times I have experienced drivers (especially taxis), turning right on to the dual carriage way from the lower part of Caewal Road by either swinging in a 'U turn' around the central island or even by driving on the wrong side of the road.

I have also witnessed cars driving from the same side of Caewal Road straight over the island to continue through to the top half of Caewal Road. It's amazing that a pedestrian hasn't been hurt yet! If the island is removed it will be easier for these drivers to illegally turn right or go straight across the dual carriage way."

Response - A central island will be reconstructed as part of the new toucan crossing. This island will extend over the whole width of the junction of Caewal Road and will prevent vehicles turning right from the south side of Caewal Road.

Response - There is a 'no u-turn' sign in place on the existing central island which will be replaced when construction of the proposed scheme is completed. This issue has been forwarded to the Council's Civil Enforcement Team requesting they assess whether there is justification for enforcement.

Issues relating to the location of the Crossing

"One thing you may consider changing is I see from the diagram the Toucan crossing will be placed on the west side of the Western Avenue/Caewal road junction. I believe this may encourage drivers heading from east to west on western avenue to turn down Caewal road to avoid any crossing delay. Caewal road (south of western avenue) has already turned into somewhat of a rat run and this may exacerbate it. However if the Toucan crossing was position on the east side the junction this potential problem will be avoided without impacting

at all on the effectiveness of the proposed crossing. The impact on Caewall road north of western avenue travelling would stay the same as the North section of Caewall road is not used as a cut through like the south end.

“As a pedestrian crossing I think the location is suitable but as a shared use crossing I think the crossing needs to be moved East as far as possible closer to the junction as the shared access area could be a conflict point for pedestrian and cycle movements.”

Response –

The crossing can't be placed to the east of the junction because Crossings near junctions need to be set back from the junction at a distance of 5m but because of the mature trees to the East of the junction on the North side it would be better to locate it to the West of the Junction this is also to avoid conflicts with vehicles and pedestrians turning into Caewal Road South.

This has also been discussed in detail with the Council's Telematics team in detail and they agree that the location of the crossing to the west is the best option because of existing services in the existing footway.

Pedestrian surveys have been carried out, these recorded a number of pedestrians cross the road at this location and it is considered that placing the crossing where it serves the desire line is of the utmost importance.

Issues relating to a 20mph zone

“We would also strongly urge the Council to change the speed limit on both parts of Caewal Rd from 30mph to 20mph to ensure road safety on what is a well used route to Llandaff village and schools. Given that the speed limit of Western Avenue is changing to 30mph , it seems ludicrous that the speed limit in a very short side road should be the same.”

Response - The Council are currently implementing new 20mph speed limits in Cardiff, these are part of a strategic approach to speed limit changes. Subject to the availability of funding, the 20mph area schemes will be implemented over a number of years, initially starting in the areas south of the A48 and gradually moving out of the city. Following the completion of measures in the areas south of the A48 the Council will then consider the best approach for areas in the parts of the city including Caewal Road.

Comments regarding potential light pollution

“However, as the proposed crossing has the potential to adversely impact on nearby residential properties in terms of light pollution”

Response –

The proposed beacons incorporate LED lights into their design, therefore they mostly omit light into the direction of the oncoming traffic, and there is minimal light emitted from the sides of the LED lights into adjacent properties.

Issues relating to an additional raised table at Caewal Road-St Michaels Road

“Residents raised concerns about vehicle speeds on Caewal Road near St Michaels Road, requested additional traffic calming”

This proposal scheme is being developed using funds from the Welsh Government under their ‘Road Safety Grant’, it is not possible for us to use the funds for other purposes.

We would advise you that this issue has previously been investigated. The investigation concluded that the issue is of concern, but is not of a high enough priority to warrant being submitted for specific Council or Welsh Government capital funding. Regrettably, we currently have very limited funding available for highway improvement works, this location has therefore been included on our database as an Area of Concern and the issue will be addressed if alternative funding opportunities arise

Issues relating to Road Markings that have worn away.

I can confirm that the faded lines will be added to the future programme of works and will implemented as soon as practicable from our Assets Team

Support for the scheme

“We fully support this proposal. We live nearby and walk our daughter to and from Llandaff City Primary. This will make a real improvement.”

“I welcome improvements for pedestrians”

“The pedestrian element of this scheme is very welcome. Crossing the Avenue, which I do at least twice a week, is perilous and intimidating. The Toucan will be most welcome for me and the many youngsters and others who use it every day”

“The proposed introduction of a 30mph speed limit is welcomed, as in principle, is the proposed construction of a safer crossing facility.”

“Happy to support both the speed reduction and the proposed crossing.”

“Further to the above proposal scheme, I confirm that as it stands we have no objection as long as the Toucan Crossing remains as per your plan to the west side of the junction with Caewal Road. Also we agree to the proposed speed reduction to 30 mph.”

“We strongly support the suggestion of creating a new crossing that is managed by lights”

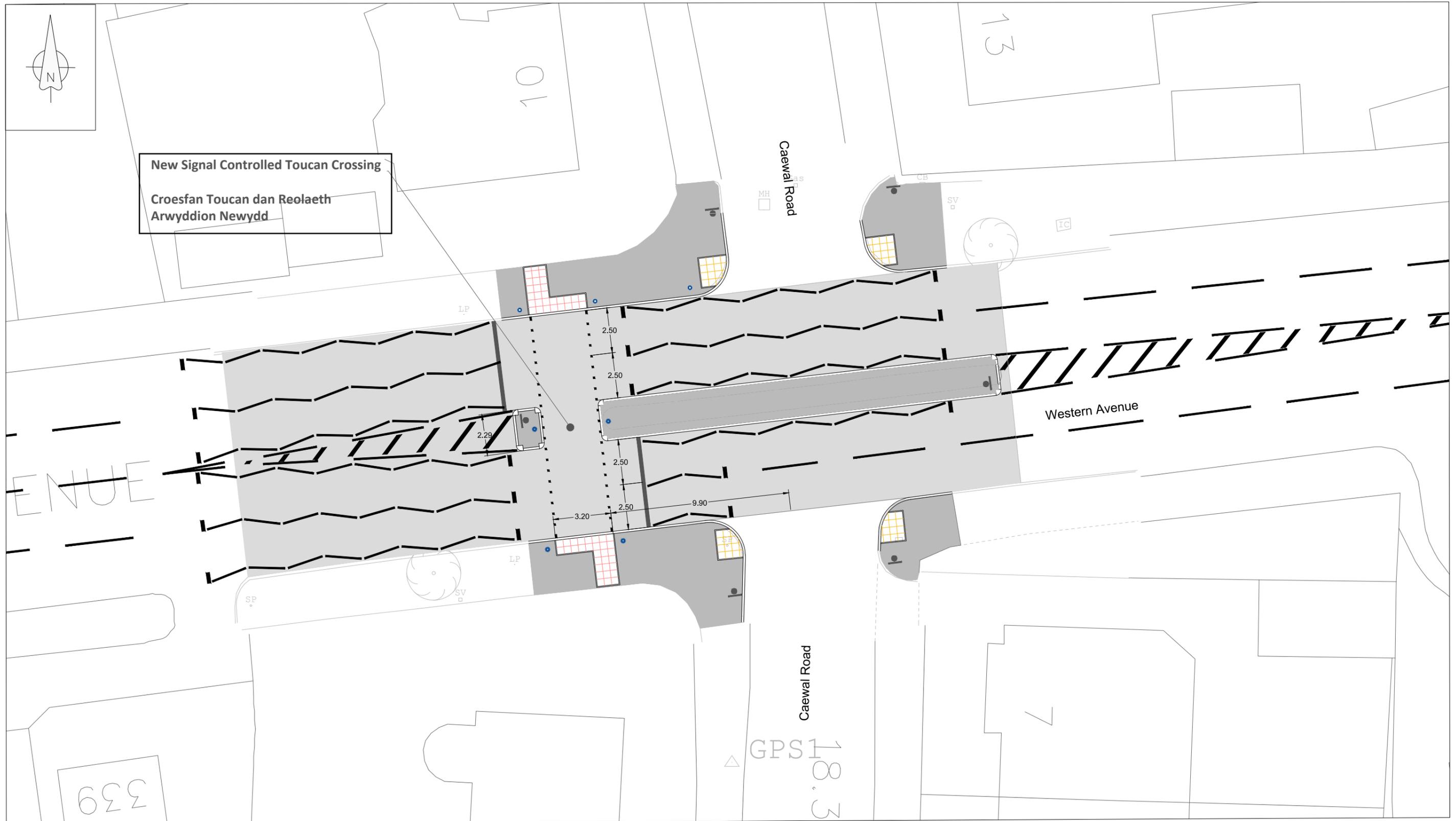
“I am writing in full support of the proposed improvements. As local resident my family and I frequently have to cross the A48 from Caewal Rd on our way to Llandaff (schools, shops and scouts) and find the crossing very dangerous, with insufficient protection for pedestrians stuck on the very narrow and unprotected traffic island, with vehicles travelling either side at speeds of 40mph.”

*“I would like to respond that I am in **support** of the proposed crossing and speed limit change”*

"I am delighted to learn that there are plans to install a toucan crossing across the A48 near Caewal Road in Llandaff"

Mae'r Cyngor yn ymgynghori ar y cynnig i weithredu cynllun rheoli traffig yn seiliedig ar y cynllun.

Mae rhagor o fanylion am yr ymgynghori hwn ar gael yn www.caerdydd.gov.uk/Projectautrafnidiaeth ar y ddolen 'gweld ymgynghoriadau' neu ffoniwch 029 2087 3354 i ofyn am gopi papur. Os hoffech wneud unrhyw sylwadau am y cynnig rhowch wybod i ni erbyn **30/8/2019**



The Council is consulting on the proposal to implement a traffic management scheme based on the plan shown.

Further details about this consultation are available at www.cardiff.gov.uk/TransportProjects using the 'view consultations' link or telephone 029 2087 3354 to request a paper copy. If you would like to make any comments about this proposal please let us know by **30/8/2019**