Overview of proposals

The two Pelican crossings on Stapleton Road by Webb Street and Armoury Square are due for refurbishment as the traffic signal equipment has surpassed its design life expectancy.

Rather than replacing the traffic lights it is now recommended that Zebra crossings would be better suited along this section of Stapleton Road (between Easton Way and Trinity Road).

This recommendation is based on the light traffic flows this section of Stapleton Road now experiences and the introduction of a 20mph speed limit, both of which have occurred after the Pelican crossings were first installed and now enable Zebra crossings to operate safely in their place.

When monitoring the Pelican crossings it was observed that 51% of pedestrians crossing the road did so without pushing the button or waiting for a green man.

This indicates that there are sufficient gaps in the vehicle flow for most people to cross unaided. It also shows that the traffic signal crossings are an underutilised facility that the Council is maintaining.

Public consultation summary

- The consultation ran from 14th July – 1st August 2014.
- Leaflets were delivered to local residents and shops.
- The proposals were put on the Council website.
- The proposals were emailed around local Councillors, the Neighbourhood Partnership, the local schools, the police and bus operators.

A total of 9 responses have been recorded. 5 were in support of the proposals and 4 objected to the proposals.

The main objection to the proposals was the concern that taking away the Pelican crossings would increase risk to the public and may isolate the more vulnerable pedestrians such as children and the elderly.

Response

It is not proposed to remove a pedestrian facility but to change the type of facility provided. Replacing the Pelican crossings with Zebra crossings will not leave pedestrians with an inferior crossing facility, just a different one. Research has shown that the safety records of Pelican and Zebra crossings are very similar, so there is no increased risk to the public.
Zebra crossings provide the highest form of pedestrian priority, with pedestrians given instant precedence over vehicles rather than having to wait for priority, as at a Pelican crossing.

In addition to this vehicles have to give way as long as a pedestrian is on the crossing, giving more time and a more comfortable crossing experience to larger groups of pedestrians and to slower pedestrians such as children and the elderly. A common problem experienced by slower pedestrians at Pelican crossings is that they feel hurried once the green man is finished.

Conclusion

Due to the reasons mentioned above and because the majority of responses we received were in support of the Zebra crossings it is recommended that the scheme go ahead as proposed.

What happens next?

A separate, formal consultation will need to run for the Statutory Notice that is required for the change of crossing type. This will give the opportunity for members of the public to formally object to the proposals, should they wish to do so. It will be advertised by notices erected on site.

The construction works on the final scheme that is agreed following the Statutory Notice are likely to take place around February / March 2015. Information boards will be placed on street in advance of the works commencing.