

MILL BRIDGE SAFETY SCHEME

Briefing Report



1. BACKGROUND

1.1. Road casualty data, engagement with ward members and public consultation have indicated that road safety and perceptions of road safety are significant issues in the area; and specifically at Mill bridge where it is difficult to cross the road between Stonehouse Creek and Victoria Park.

It is proposed to address these issues with a 20 mph speed limit enforced with average speed cameras and a crossing for pedestrians and cyclists at Mill bridge. This is the preferred option because it would provide a safer and easier crossing point and wider road safety benefits where the 20 mph speed limit is implemented.

2. PROPOSED CHANGES AND REASONS

2.1. The proposals include:

- a new zebra and a parallel cycle crossing on Mill Bridge connecting two parts of a designated Local Green Space (Stonehouse Creek and Victoria Park) as well as improving continuity of the National Cycle Network Route 2.
- a new 20mph Speed Limit Zone, enforced by average speed cameras. Lower speeds are needed around the proposed crossing due to limited forward visibility on the approach from Eldad Hill and require enforcement to ensure that drivers do not approach the crossing at too high a speed. The wider speed limit will help address wider safety concerns in the area that have been highlighted through engagement with ward members and the public.
- reconfiguration of the existing informal parking area and bus stops on Mill Bridge. Pedestrian Crossings usually result in the loss of several parking spaces on each approach because of the requirement to provide Zig Zag markings. This design has limited the loss to two spaces by converting the Bus Bays to parking and providing build outs for bus passengers to use.
- a new cycle on-ramp to access the shared-use (walking and cycling) path on the eastern side of Mill Bridge
- relocation of waste bins for Eldad Hill residents
- additional gullies to improve drainage so helping to reduce flooding on Mill Bridge.

2.2. These proposals, aiming to provide a safe crossing point and reduce vehicle speed down Eldad Hill, with its narrow footway, were developed following feedback from local ward councillors that residents are concerned about the speed of traffic and difficulty crossing the road.

2.3. The proposed 20mph zone will bring in a number of surrounding residential streets. It will be enforced by average speed cameras similar to those used on Old Laira Road, which has seen a reduction in collisions since a 20mph limit was introduced – and none recorded in over two years. It is expected that the proposals will significantly reduce the number of collisions in the area and help people feel safer.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISK

3.1. The scheme is funded as follows:

- £300,000 New Department for Transport National Cycle Network tranche 7 funding award
- £150,000 Existing Highways capital funding

4. TIMESCALES

4.1. Once approved the crossing will be constructed between January and March 2025 in line with the funder's requirement that the scheme be completed this financial year. Following a review of the public consultation feedback and balancing our reasons for proposing the safety measures, phase one of the new speed limit will be implemented in 2025. The second phase, covering areas in Stonehouse, will likely be implemented within two years.