



LAVERSTOCK & FORD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 17th February 2025

Agenda Item: PC25.026a: LHFIG issue 13-20-16 - St Thomas' Bridge Pedestrian Crossing.

Subject:	LHFIG issue 13-20-16 - St Thomas' Bridge Pedestrian Crossing and potential route upgrades.
Prepared by:	Cllr Laura Jones
Purpose of Report:	A report to councillors regarding Parish Council contributions to Local Highways and Footpath Group LHFIG scheme.
Background:	<p>The road between St Thomas' Bridge and Church Road/Ford roundabout, a critical commute point for our children and parents, presents a serious safety concern due to its busy nature and lack of pedestrian crossing facilities for those travelling to the Schools along Church Road.</p> <p>This route has seen an increase in foot traffic especially since the introduction of the TRO on Church Road encouraging parents/children to walk from Bishopdown Farm and Riverdown Park. We also know that the new ASDA store due in the next few years could further increase footfall along that route.</p> <p>These factors significantly elevate the risk of accidents, endangering our children and community members crossing this route daily.</p> <p>LHFIG issue 13-20-16 has been outstanding since 2020 but only proposes dropped kerbs and not a proper crossing.</p> <p>Update from Highways Maintenance Team – October 2024</p> <p><i>'As the group have previously been informed the Major Maintenance Team have advised that, due to budget constraints, the proposed resurfacing scheme at St. Thomas' Roundabout will not be taken forward during the 2023/2024 financial year and is provisionally in the programme for the 2024/2025 financial year. Dropped kerbs to aid crossing movements will still form part of the works.'</i></p> <p>Update from Traffic Engineering Team – January 2025</p> <p><i>Whilst the scheme was initially provisionally in the programme for the 2024/2025 financial year, it was unfortunately moved. We have not yet had any confirmation that it will be included in the coming years programme from the major maintenance team and have been exploring other avenues of funding however those have proven unsuccessful so far. Most of the reasoning behind this was due to its location as any work would have to be carried out at night under a road closure which exponentially increases the price of the overall project and was not supported by the LHFIG group as a standalone project.</i></p> <p><i>A pedestrian crossing assessment was carried out in 2021 which deemed that this location at the time did not meet Wiltshire criteria for further measures such as a zebra or signalised crossing. Crossing movements should be an average of 50 over the 4 busiest hours of the day within a 12-hour period with vulnerable pedestrians (children and elderly) classing at two crossing</i></p>

movements. I do however understand that due to current circumstances within Laverstock i.e. behaviour change and displaced parking that the Parish Council may wish to review this again.

A pedestrian crossing assessment can be ordered; however, this does come at a cost of £2500, 25% contribution expected from LFPC at £625 and the rest funded via the group. This can be considered at the next LHFIC meeting, however there is not now a meeting until June due to the elections in May and the next Area Board for financial sign off is not until the end of June. This leaves a small window for the survey to be ordered and carried out prior to the break for school holidays which I would be unable to guarantee, and think it is likely it would be carried out post September. The Parish can choose to fully fund this item if you wish it to be carried out sooner.

Sadly the request for a crossing and route upgrades was not included as part of the highways improvements plans in the upcoming ASDA application. Cllr Ian McLennan did note this at the last Strategic Planning Committee (11/12/2024) but the answer was that sadly it would not be possible to add it to the S106 at this time.

Cllr Laura Jones suggests that a pedestrian crossing is ordered which should hopefully show a marked increase in children crossing from Bishopdown Farm/Riverdown Park to the Church Road schools.

There are currently 87 signatures supporting a petition on charge.org website mostly from parents/carers who use this route showing a clear mandate from local residents:

<https://www.change.org/p/establish-a-secure-pedestrian-crossing-between-st-thomas-bridge-and-church-road>

Key Points:





<p>Implications</p>	
<p>Recommendation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) That the council resolves to meet the LFPC 25% £625 to LHFIFG issue 13-20-16 St Thomas' Bridge Pedestrian Crossing to order a pedestrian crossing assessment. 2) A wider discussion takes place at committee level/working group to agree on how LFPC wants to engage with Wiltshire Council and local schools over the need for a pedestrian crossing and route upgrades.