

## ASHFORD JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2012

**Subject:** School Road, Hothfield – Proposed Zebra Crossing – Member Highway Fund

**Director/Head of Service:** Kent County Council- Highways and Transportation

**Decision Issues:** **These matters are within the authority of the Board**

**Decision:** Non-key

**Ward/Division:** **Downs West**

<b>Summary:</b>	<i>This report notifies Members of receipt of an objection to the proposed installation of a zebra crossing in School Road, Hothfield, and recommends Members endorse the proposal to implement the scheme notwithstanding the objection.</i>
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**To Recommend:** **That Members endorse the proposal to install the zebra crossing**

**Classification:** THIS REPORT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

### Background

1. The residents of Hothfield have been campaigning for a pedestrian crossing in School Road for some years, to serve the Bluebell Centre, formally Hothfield School, which is used for a variety of purposes by parents and young children.
2. A detailed design of the scheme and its costs was produced by Kent County Council for Richard King and Hothfield Parish Council to approve. Richard King agreed to fund this scheme from his Member Highway Fund.
3. As part of obligations under section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, statutory notices were posted near to the proposed site of construction and advertised in the Kent on Sunday newspaper, notifying people of Kent County Council's intention to install the zebra crossing as shown in Appendix B.
4. As a result of this consultation, one objection was received from a local resident. A number of discussions have been held with the resident in an attempt to resolve their objection. These have included the potential relocation of the zebra crossing, however, in terms of visibility, desirability and build ability the proposed site is at the optimum location. Further changes have been suggested to see if the objection can be resolved, but to no avail, hence the requirement for this matter to be brought before the Board for resolution.

## The Objection

1. The proposed zebra crossing is located outside No 20 School Road, Hothfield.
2. Zig zag markings are required to prevent parking on the approaches and exits to the zebra crossing to ensure that good visibility is maintained for motorists to clearly see pedestrians crossing and waiting to cross.
3. The resident, [REDACTED], lives at [REDACTED] and because of these zig zag markings, parking outside her front gate would be prohibited under the current proposals.
4. [REDACTED] is registered disabled and holds a Blue Badge
5. [REDACTED] is unhappy that her current, unrestricted, parking arrangements will cease and that she will no longer be able to park directly outside her front gate.
6. [REDACTED] would like a dropped kerb and parking area on the front garden of her, Ashford Borough Council owned, property in the first instance, but Ashford Borough Council confirm that they do not have funding available to provide this. The cost of the work is also beyond the, already over committed, MHF budget of Richard King.
7. Since the objection was raised, a number of conversations have been held between [REDACTED], Richard King, David Robey, Borough Councillor and Tara O'Shea, KCC Traffic Engineer, to try to resolve this matter, in a way to suit all parties.
8. At a subsequent site visit made on 28 February 2012, it was proposed to reduce the zig zag markings to a length where visibility could still be maintained on the approaches to the zebra crossing and [REDACTED] could park 1.3m from her front gate, by way of the provision of a Disabled Persons Parking Bay.
9. [REDACTED] was asked on 28 February 2012 whether this proposal would overcome her objection. A photo of where the bay could be installed can be seen in the photographs shown in Appendix A.
10. [REDACTED] confirmed that her objection still stands as this Disabled Persons Parking Bay could be used by other Blue Badge holders in the area.

## Conclusion

Given the overwhelming local support for the scheme and the offer of nearby parking facilities which can be used by [REDACTED] and in the absence of any other agreeable solution, Kent County Council asks the Board to endorse the scheme be progressed as advertised, with the addition of a Disabled Persons Parking Bay, as shown in Appendix C.

Author Tara O'Shea, KCC Traffic Engineer

**Contact Officers:**

**Andy Corcoran**  
**Tara O'Shea**

**Traffic Schemes and Members Highway Fund Manager**  
**MHF Traffic Engineer**

Contact Telephone 08458 247 800

**Appendix A**

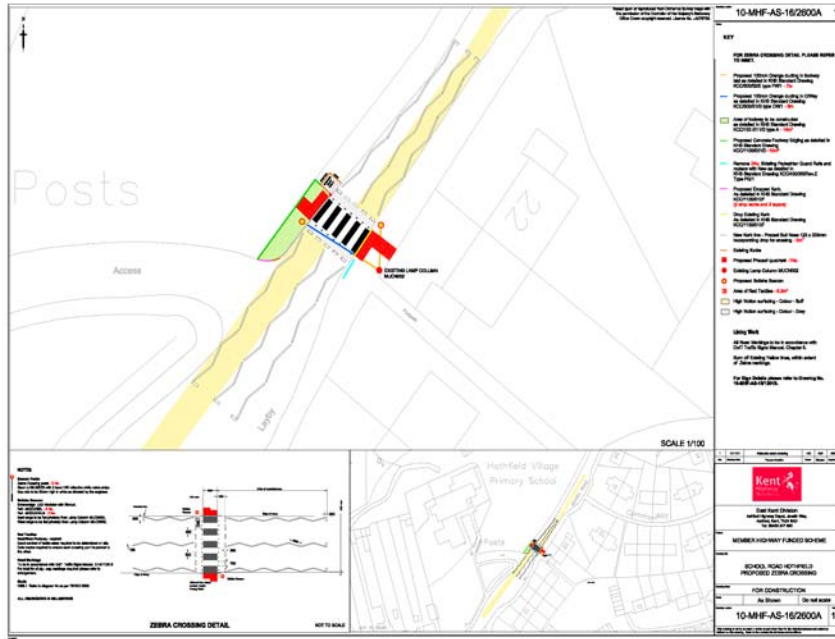
Markings Showing end of zig zags and start of Disabled Bay in relation to the front gate of 22 School Road



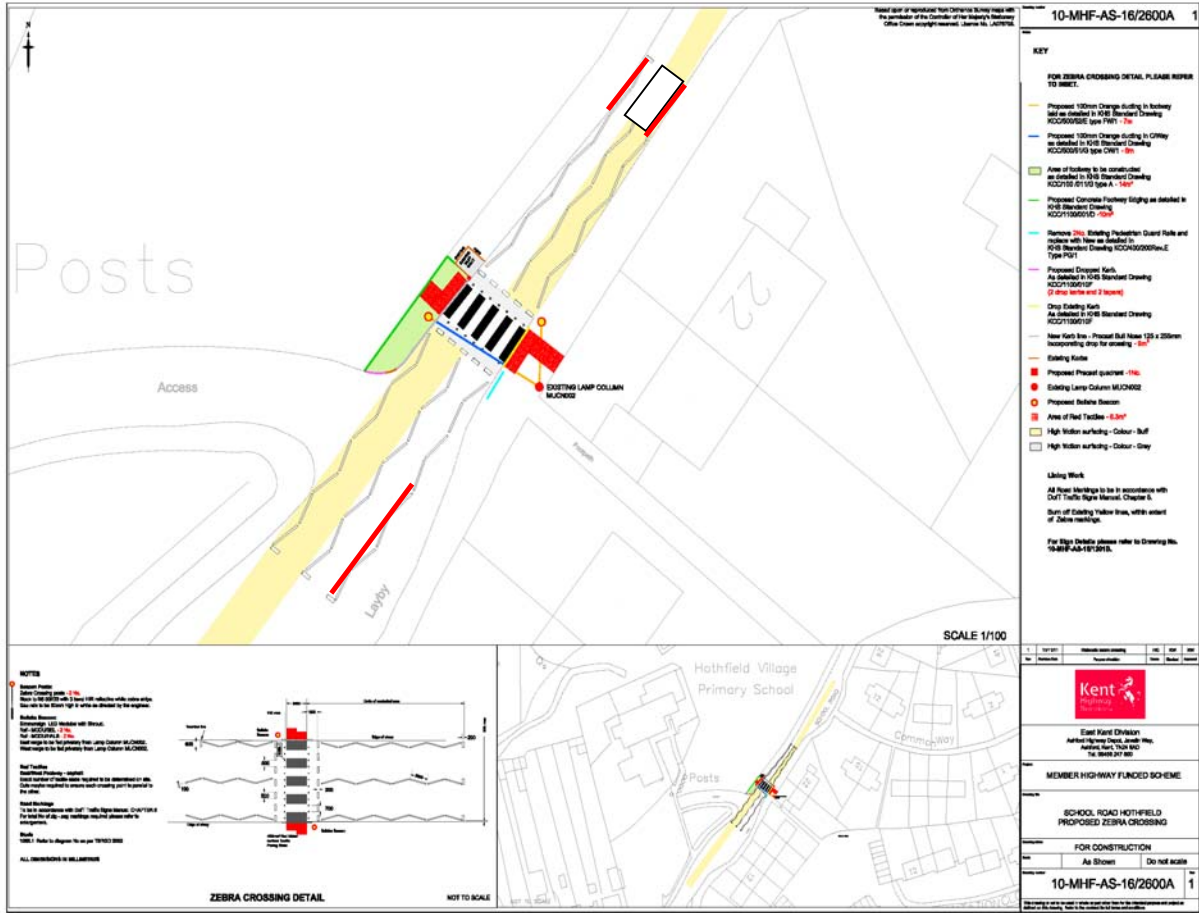
Image of boundary of 22 School Road and existing parking conditions



# Appendix B – Original Proposal



# Appendix C – Proposal with Parking Restriction Changes



- Disabled Parking Bay
- Deleted lengths of Zig Zag Markings