

<b>Report to:</b>	Licensing and Regulatory Committee Meeting	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Monday 10 June 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Birkdale, Weld Road Accessibility Improvements		
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director Place (Highways and Public Protection)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Dukes
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Housing and Highways		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:** This report seeks Committee approval to changes to the highway to deliver accessibility improvements along Weld Road, Birkdale between Lulworth Road and Birkdale Village.

### **Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that the Assistant Director Place (Highways and Public Protection) be authorised to implement the following modifications to the Highway

- (1) The installation of Pedestrian Crossing facilities at the junction of Weld Road/ York Road and Weld Road/ Lulworth road junctions.
- (2) Accessibility Improvements along Weld Road between Lulworth Road and Birkdale Village.

### **Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

Licensing and Regulatory Committee have powers to consider the outcome of consultation and the resultant proposals in respect of the making of traffic regulation orders, details of improvements to highways and cycle routes and can approve the scheme as proposed or with minor amendments but otherwise must refer the scheme to the Cabinet Member.

Funding for the Scheme was included in the 2023/4 Transport Capital Programme, carried forward to undertake the scheme in 2024/5.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

None

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs**

None

**(B) Capital Costs**

The Construction and ancillary costs, will be funded from the CRSTS programme. An allocation of £400k was included within the 2023/4 Transport Capital Programme, carried forward to undertake the works in 2024/5.

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>		
The management of the contract will be overseen by staff in Transportation Planning and Highway Development team. The staff cost will be funded from the allocation with the Transport Capital programme.		
<b>Legal Implications:</b>		
None		
<b>Equality Implications:</b>		
There are no direct equality implications. However, the scheme will deliver new safer crossing which will assist pedestrians including those with mobility impairments.		
<b>Impact on Cared for Children and Care Experienced Young People:</b> No		
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>		
The recommendations within this report will		
Have a positive impact		Y/N
Have a neutral impact		Y/N
Have a negative impact		Y/N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors		Y/N
The construction process will have negative impact in that new materials will be used and there will be an anticipated net carbon increase.  However, the scheme when implemented, will improve accessibility and should		

encourage people to walk, which could result in smaller number of short car journeys. This should reduce the carbon impact.

This is one of the projects where a carbon assessment is being completed as part of a process of evaluation the Carbon footprint of the Transport Capital Programme, to inform delivery of future projects.

### **Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

<b>Protect the most vulnerable:</b>
Not applicable.
<b>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</b>
The scheme should improve walking in the local area by making employment, retail / leisure and public transport easier to access.
<b>Commission, broker and provide core services:</b>
Not applicable.
<b>Place – leadership and influencer:</b>
The scheme should help improve access to places of employment / retail / leisure and public transport in the local area.
<b>Drivers of change and reform:</b>
Not applicable
<b>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</b>
Not applicable
<b>Greater income for social investment:</b>
Not applicable.
<b>Cleaner Greener</b>
The scheme should improve the walking environment in the local area, making public transport retail and leisure easier to access on foot.

### **What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

#### **(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7676/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5776/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

## **(B) External Consultations**

Consultation on all the proposals have been completed with 189 residential properties and businesses likely to be impacted upon the proposals.

### **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Cabinet Member decision.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Andrew Dunsmore
Telephone Number:	0151-934-2766
Email Address:	Andrew.Dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A – General Arrangement Plans

Appendix B – Consultation Letters

Appendix C – Summary of Consultation Responses.

### **Background Papers:**

#### **1. Introduction/ Background**

- 1.1 Over recent years, the Council has had a programme of improving accessibility within Local Centres. The Weld Road area of Birkdale Village has been identified as having poor levels of pedestrian accessibility, with poorly located and constructed dropped crossings, many without tactile paving, which are unsuitable for a local centre, along with an existing signal-controlled junction which does not include pedestrian crossing facilities.
- 1.2 In addition to the village centre, the Weld Road corridor is a key desire line for pedestrians to access Birkdale Village. Much of this route is in poor condition, with inadequate dropped crossings and crosses the A565 Lulworth Road at another signal-controlled junction which does not possess adequate pedestrian crossing facilities.
- 1.3 There have been numerous requests over the years from members of the public, local Ward members and Southport Access for Everyone, for pedestrian phases at both sets of traffic lights.

## **2.0 Scheme Proposals**

2.1 Initial feasibility plans have been developed to address the issues outlined above.

2.2 These include a range new crossing and accessibility listed below.

**York Road and Weld Road Junction** - New controlled crossings for those walking on the York Road / Weld Road traffic signal junction.

**Weld Road and Lulworth Road Junction** - Upgrade of existing traffic signals to include crossings with tactile paving and push buttons for those walking across Weld Road and Lulworth Road.

**Improved footpath upgrades with new crossings** - Footpaths along Weld Road will be improved. Existing dropped kerbs are to be replaced with tactile paving.

2.3 The proposals are shown on the general Arrangement Plans set out in Appendix A.

## **3.0 Consultation**

3.1 A Public Consultation was held on the improvements to the Weld Road area of Birkdale Village. Letters were sent to 189 households and businesses, directly affected by the proposals, inviting comments via Your Sefton Your Say. Key Stakeholders were also invited to make comments. The consultation went live on 7 April 2024 and closed on 11 March 2024. A copy of the letter sent is attached in Appendix B.

3.2 Thirty-one responses were received form the Consultation. Thirty of these were favourable, with one opposed, suggesting that the funding would be better spent on highway maintenance. Comments received were generally positive, with the exception of requests for resurfacing of Weld Road to be included in the proposals and a request made to relocate the bus stop on Weld Road further away from the junction with Lulworth Road to relieve the problem of buses blocking vehicles turning into Weld Road.

3.3 In response to these comments, consideration is being given to increasing the amount of resurfacing of Weld Road, following further deterioration over the winter and the position of the Bus Stop at the junction of Weld Rd/ Lulworth Road will be considered at the detail design stage.

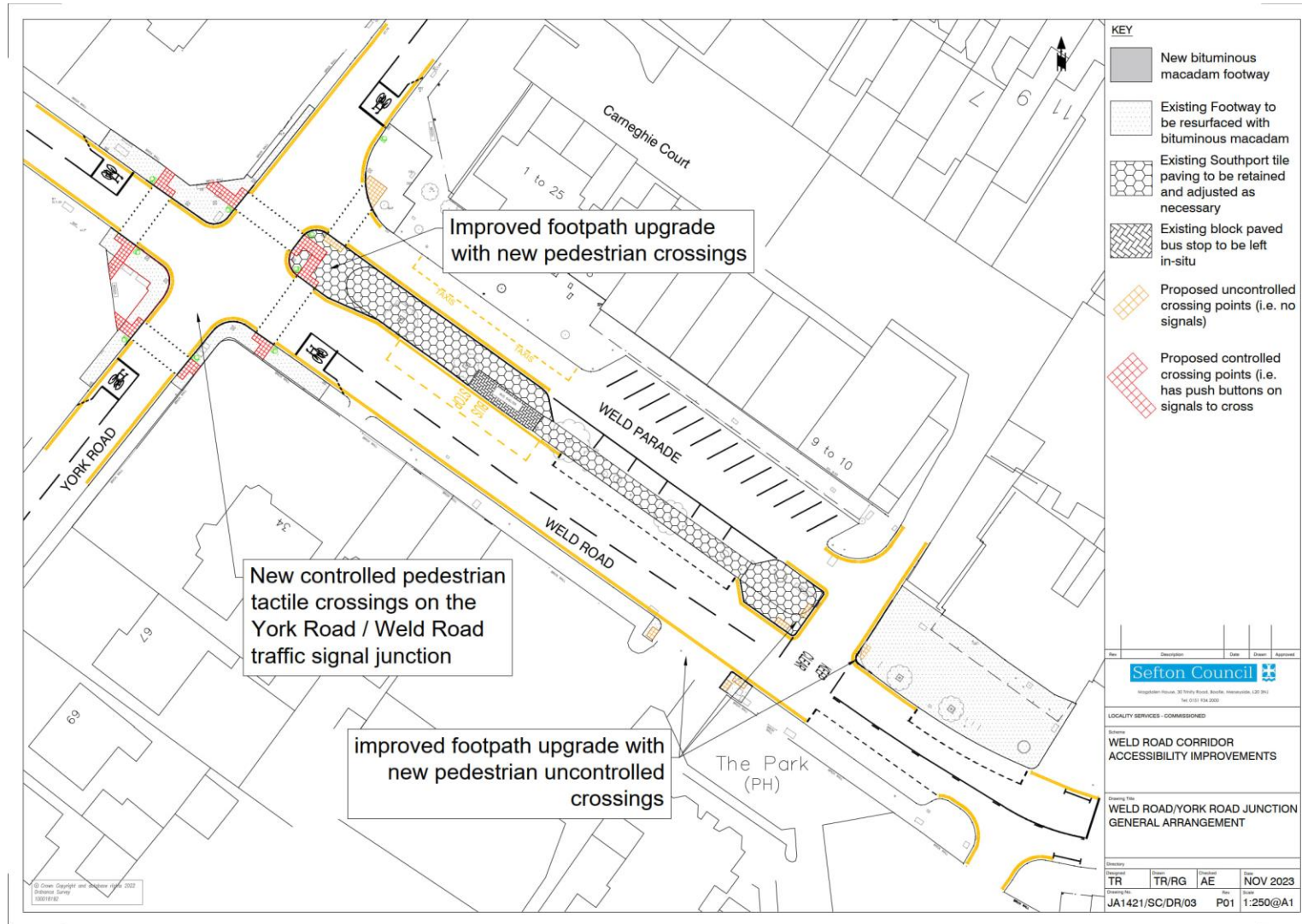
## **4.0 Recommendations**

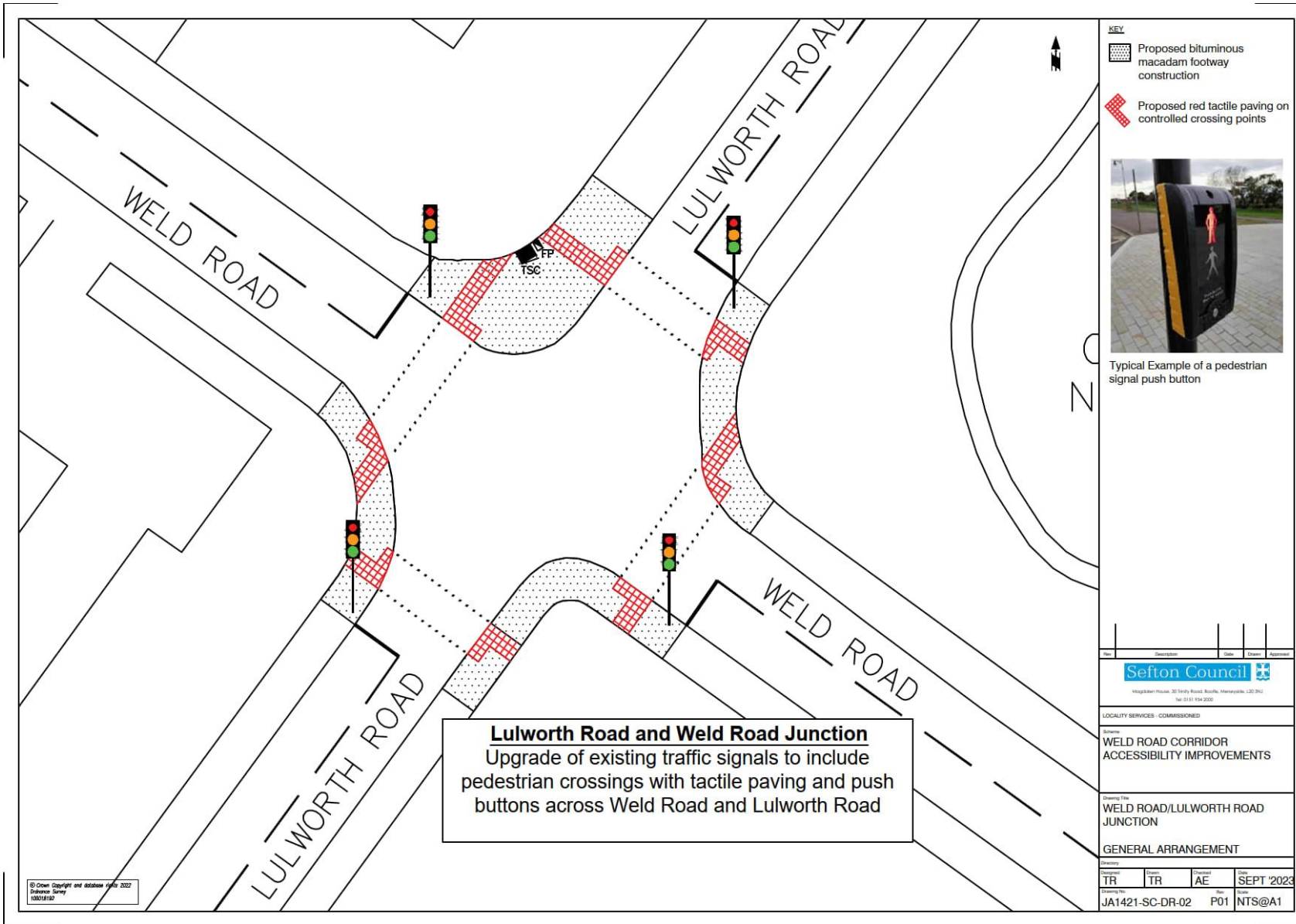
4.1 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the Assistant Director Place (Highways and Public Protection) be authorised to implement the following modifications to the Highway:

- (1) The installation of Pedestrian Crossing facilities at the junction of weld Road/ York Road and Weld Road/ Lulworth Road junctions.
- (2) Accessibility Improvements along Weld Road between Lulworth Road and Birkdale Village.

# Appendix A – General Arrangement Plans





**Lulworth Road and Weld Road Junction**  
 Upgrade of existing traffic signals to include pedestrian crossings with tactile paving and push buttons across Weld Road and Lulworth Road

- KEY**
- Proposed bituminous macadam footway construction
  - Proposed red tactile paving on controlled crossing points



Typical Example of a pedestrian signal push button

Rev	Author	Date	Drawn	Checked	Approved

**Sefton Council**  
 Headquarters House, 20 Farley Road, South, Merseyside, L20 2HU  
 Tel: 0151 634 2000

LOCALITY SERVICES - COMMISSIONED

Scheme:  
**WELD ROAD CORRIDOR ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

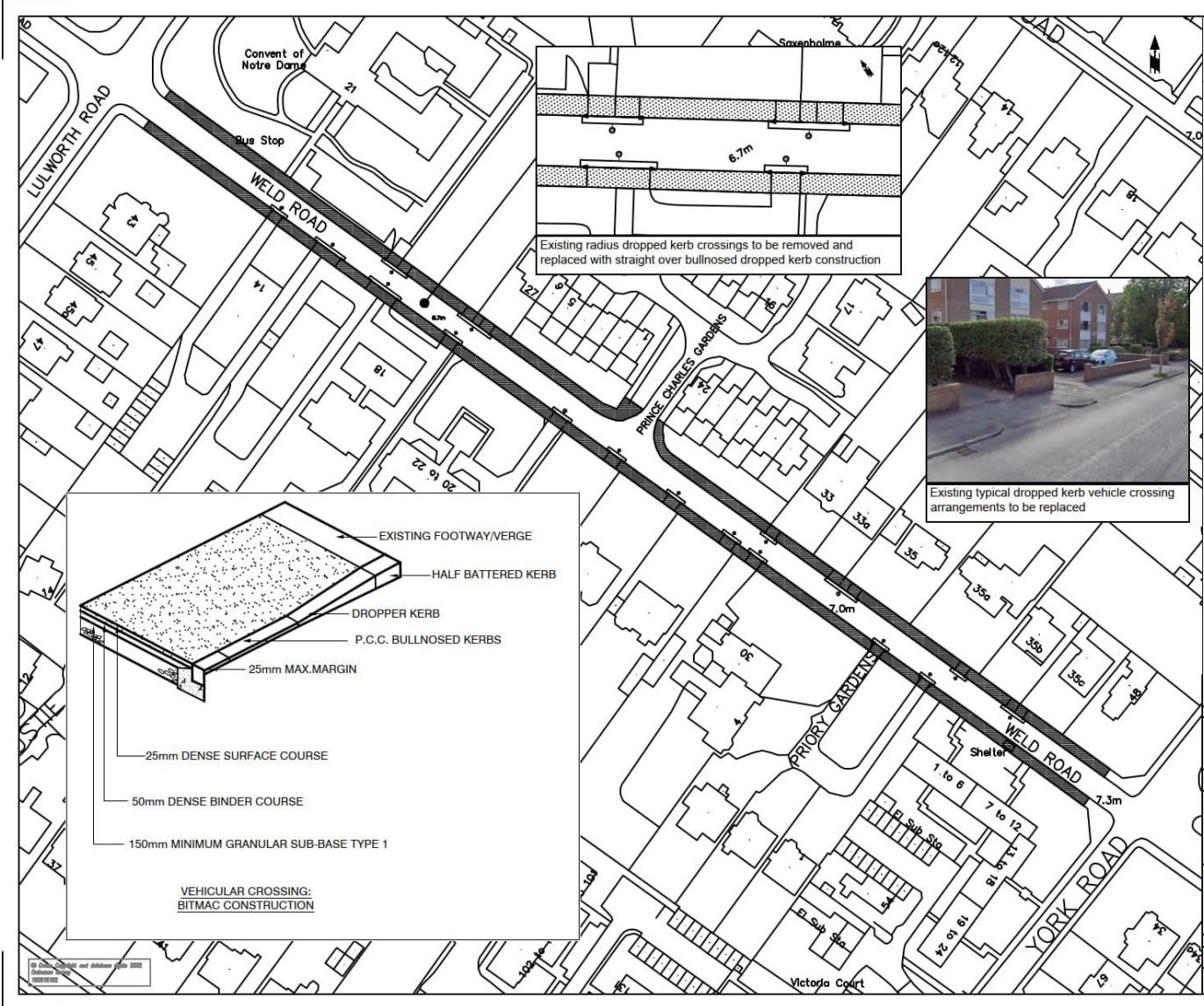
Drawing Title:  
**WELD ROAD/LULWORTH ROAD JUNCTION**

**GENERAL ARRANGEMENT**

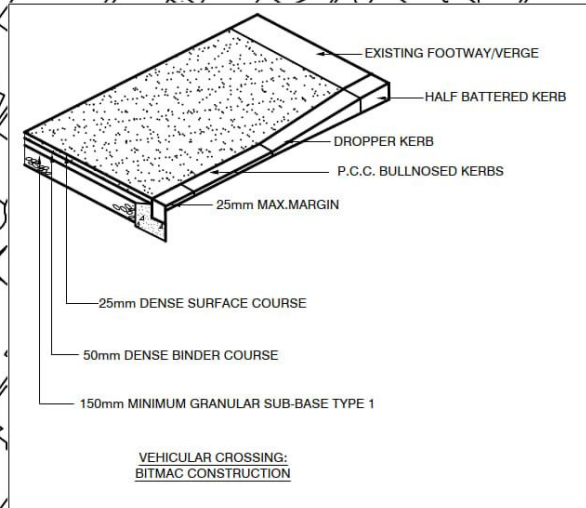
Author	Drawn	Checked	Date
TR	TR	AE	SEPT '2023
Drawing No.	Rev	Scale	Notes
JA1421-SC-DR-02	P01		NTS@A1

© Crown Copyright and database rights 2022  
 Ordnance Survey  
 100019150





- KEY**
- Proposed bituminous macadam footway construction
  - Pre-cast concrete bull-nosed kerb including transition kerbs on concrete bed and haunch
- Weld Road Property driveways included within vehicle dropped crossing improvements -
- Southern Footpath**
- No 14) Melville Court - 2 no. vehicle crossing's affected
  - No 16) Weld Court - 2 no. vehicle crossing's affected
  - No 18) Hollyhurst Lodge - 2 no. vehicle crossing's affected
  - Nos 20-22) Connell Court - 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 24) 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 26) Roslyn House - 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 28) 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 30) Chestnut - 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - Nos 1-4 Priory Gardens) - 2 no. vehicle crossing affected
- Northern footpath**
- No 21) Convent of Notre Damm - 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 25) 2 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 27) 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 33) 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 33a) 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 35) 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 35a) 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 35b) 1 no. vehicle crossing affected
  - No 35c) 1 no. vehicle crossing affected



Author	Designer	Checker	Approver
TR	TR	AE	SEPT 2023
Project No.	Revision	Date	Scale
JA1421-SC-DR-02		1:500@A1	

Sefton Council  
 Headquarters: 30 Sandy Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 2JG  
 Tel: 0151 938 2000

LOCALITY SERVICES - COMMISSIONED

WELD ROAD CORRIDOR  
 ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

Working Title:  
 LULWORTH ROAD TO YORK ROAD  
 GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

## Appendix B – Consultation Letters



Andrew Dunsmore  
Sefton Council  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Magdalen House  
30 Trinity Road  
Bootle  
L20 3NJ  
Tel: 03451400845  
Email:  
transport.planning@sefton.gov.uk

13/03/2024

Ref: Helping people walk/get around  
Birkdale Village (Weld Road).

Dear Sir/Madam

### **Helping people walk/get around Birkdale Village (Weld Road).**

I am writing to let you know of our plans to improve the accessibility around Birkdale Village (Weld Road).

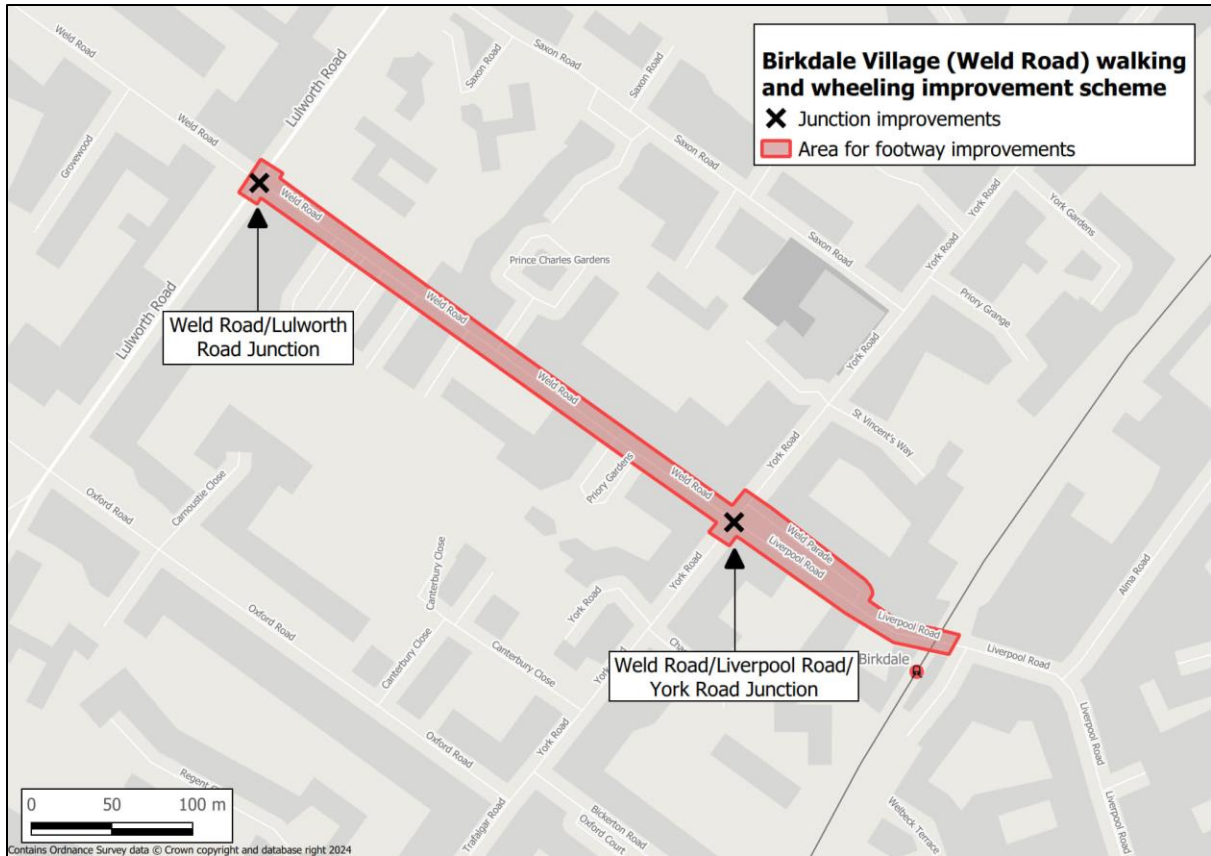
The Weld Road area of Birkdale Village has been identified as having poor facilities for those walking around the area. The current traffic lights are not designed for those walking to cross and there are limited crossing points within the village.

Weld Road is a key walking route to / through Birkdale Village. The section between York Road and Lulworth Road is in poor condition and there are no crossing facilities at the junction of Weld Road and Lulworth Road.

Sefton Council are therefore developing plans to resurface the footways along this length and provide push button crossing facilities at the junctions.

### **Improvements to the Weld Road area of Birkdale Village include the following:**

1. **York Road and Weld Road Junction** - New controlled push button pedestrian crossings on the York Road / Weld Road traffic signal junction.
2. **Weld Road and Lulworth Road Junction** - Upgrade of existing traffic signals to include pedestrian crossings with push buttons across Weld Road and Lulworth Road.
3. **Improved footpath upgrades with new pedestrian crossings** - Footpaths along Weld Road will be improved. Existing dropped kerbs are to be replaced with tactile paving.



**We would like to hear your thoughts.**

We want to hear your thoughts on what we are planning. We are at the early stages of looking at how we can develop and fund our plans. Now is your chance to give us your feedback. All comments will be reviewed as part of the development of our plans.

We have launched a survey on Your Sefton Your Say which will run from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March till midnight on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

The Link or QR code below will show you the scheme plans and allow you to provide feedback on the plans.

<https://yourseftonyoursay.sefton.gov.uk/investment-programmes-and-infrastructure/birkdale-village-public-consultation>



Yours sincerely,

Andrew Dunsmore  
Transport Planning Manager

**Appendix C – Consultation Responses**

# Helping people to walk / get around Birkdale Village (Weld Road)'

## We Asked, You Said, We Did

### WE ASKED

A public consultation was held on the improvements to the Weld Road area of Birkdale Village. The wider public consultation went live 7<sup>th</sup> of April (11/03/2024) and closed on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March (07/04/2024).

The Weld Road area of Birkdale Village has been identified as having poor facilities for those walking around the area. The current traffic lights are not designed for those walking to cross and there are limited crossing points within the village.

Weld Road is a key walking route to Birkdale Village. The section between York Road and Lulworth Road is in poor condition and there are no crossing facilities at the junction of Weld Road and Lulworth Road.

We asked for comments of the proposed improvements to resurface the footways along this length and also provide push button crossing facilities at the junctions.

#### Improvements to the Weld Road area of Birkdale Village include the following:

1. **York Road and Weld Road Junction** - New controlled crossings for those walking on the York Road / Weld Road traffic signal junction.
2. **Weld Road and Lulworth Road Junction** - Upgrade of existing traffic signals to include crossings with tactile paving and push buttons for those walking across Weld Road and Lulworth Road.
3. **Improved footpath upgrades with new crossings** - Footpaths along Weld Road will be improved. Existing dropped kerbs are to be replaced with tactile paving.

### YOU SAID

Key themes from the consultation are below.

#### 1. RESURFACING WELD ROAD

The scheme improvements will bring safer conditions for walking, which is long overdue. It is important that the resurfacing Weld Road and Weld Parade is included within the scheme as there are several potholes, which are worsening with time.

#### 2. RELOCATION OF BUS STOPS

Improving the lights at Weld Road/Lulworth Road will worsen the problem of vehicles turning into Weld Road being blocked by buses pickup up passengers. The bus stop needs to be moved along the road.

### WE DID

#### 1. RESURFACING WELD ROAD

Sefton Council are aware of the need to resurface Weld Road and Weld Parade which have worsened over the winter period, and we are planning to address this as soon as possible. It is important to note that Weld Road is Adopted Highway by the council meaning we have the powers to resurface meanwhile, Weld Parade is privately owned

land. The council will contact the landowners of Weld Parade to make they are aware of the need to resurface the road.

## **2. RELOCATION OF BUS STOPS**

The locations of all bus stops located near junction improvements will be reviewed by the design team as part of the final detailed designs.