

Implementation of Crossing – B1030 White Hart Lane, (Springfield and Chelmsford Garden Parishes) in the City of Chelmsford.

Statement of Reasons

The proposed crossing and shared unsegregated footway cycleway are to be placed on White Hart Lane, the objective is to enable greater connectivity between the new developments of Beaulieu, Channels and the wider Chelmsford Garden Community, and Springfield areas.

This is an urban area with a large number of residential properties and associated facilities such as a school, Community Centre and doctors' surgery, the crossing of White Hart Lane represents a barrier for those residents and users either side of it.

The crossing is particularly important since the opening of Beaulieu School (catering for 4 years to 18-year-olds) on the north side of White Hart Lane within the Beaulieu development. Pupils and parents living in Springfield attending the schools may be somewhat discouraged from using sustainable travel to/from schools (walking or cycling), due to the distances from crossings, instead, it is believed to encourage car journeys.

This issue will be even more evident when the health Centre opens at Beaulieu, which will relocate the existing Doctors Surgery from Springfield to the other side of White Hart Lane, potentially causing difficulties for residents.

The crossing will take the form of a Toucan crossing, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to use it, connecting two sections of shared unsegregated footway/cycleway. Toucan crossings are a key part of Essex County Councils efforts to promote cycling in Essex as an alternative transport and enable cyclists to cross roads safely.

From Barn Green, south of White Hart Lane there will be a 3-metre-wide footway cycleway across Barn Green play area to the Toucan crossing on White Hart Lane. There will also be a short section of footpath connecting the existing footpath on the western side of Barn Green play area. From Barn Green, cyclists are being signed on carriageway via Paddock Drive to the existing off carriageway footway/cycleway on the south side of New Nabbotts Way.

North of White Hart Lane, the proposed footway/cycleway will be 3.5 metres wide travelling east towards Centenary Way where it will diverge from White Hart Lane, narrowing to 3 metres wide, heading in a northerly direction emerging in the pedestrianised area between The Beaulieu Park School and Beaulieu Community Centre where the route will terminate.