

Proposed Implementation of a Pedestrian Crossing (Puffin) on B1389 Hatfield Road, Witham, Braintree.

Statement of Reasons

The Local Highways Panel has received a number of requests from local residents to upgrade the existing uncontrolled crossing on Hatfield Road to a signalised crossing. The crossing is located on B1389 Hatfield Road, south-west of Augustus Way, in Witham. The proposed upgrade is backed by Councillor Louis, This crossing will be a Puffin Crossing

- **Intelligent sensors:** Puffin crossings are equipped with sensors on top of the traffic lights that can detect waiting pedestrians and those crossing the road.
- **Adjustable crossing times:** The length of time the lights stay red for vehicles is determined by the sensors, ensuring that slow-moving pedestrians have enough time to cross safely.
- **Automatic request cancellation:** If a pedestrian walks away from the crossing after pressing the button, the sensors will cancel the request, and the pedestrian phase will not appear.
- **Side-mounted signals:** Unlike older Pelican Crossings the red and green "man" signals are located on the same side of the road as the pedestrian, allowing them to watch both the signals and the traffic at the same time.

This crossing is located on a direct route to Chipping Hill Primary School. The crossing point is used by residents taking children to and from school. The existing refuge island is not big enough to cater for the pedestrian flow crossing in the gaps. The island is only big enough to allow 2 pedestrians to safely cross at once, which is causing a safety issue given the volume of parents and children using the crossing point.

Following the construction of the new housing estate on the south side of Hatfield Road, there are now more pedestrians using the crossing point than was originally expected.

Signalising the crossing will significantly improve the safety of pedestrians using the facility to cross the road. The signalised crossing will be future-proofed for toucan conversion at a later date, helping to expand the cycling network. The crossing design removes the central island, and will allow more pedestrians to cross the road at once safely, rather than during gaps in traffic.