

Proposed conversion of existing Zebra Crossing to Puffin Crossing – A129 Southend Road, Wickford

Statement of Reasons

The Basildon Local Highways Panel has received a number of requests from local residents and their representatives to update this Zebra crossing to a Puffin crossing. The latter is a signal-controlled crossing operated by pedestrians, pressing the control button to activate the traffic signals.

Local Councillors have said: 'A number of drivers, including those in commercial vehicles, either do not see the crossing or chose to ignore it and this has resulted in a number of near misses, including of children. The potential for this crossing to be the location of serious injury or worse is increasing and the time has come to upgrade the existing Zebra crossing into a signal-controlled Puffin crossing, thereby reducing the potential for this.'

Subsequently, Essex Highways have surveyed the site and confirm that this crossing point is used by large numbers of pedestrians at peak times including those needing to access Wickford Church of England Infant School close by. New developments have also increased the traffic levels on the A129 in recent years. Therefore, a Puffin type crossing will provide a safer crossing facility for pedestrians accessing those locations and for access to the existing bus stop on the A129.