

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR

CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF LOCAL SERVICES

PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSINGS A193 ROTARY WAY / B1329 LINKS ROAD, BLYTH

Purpose of Report

To consider the results of the public consultation exercise, regarding the provision of a Toucan Crossing on the A193 Rotary Way and B1329 Links Road, Blyth (see attached Consultation Plan in Appendix A).

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

Given the outcome of the consultation as well as the comments received it is recommended that the proposals to provide a Toucan Crossing on the A193 Rotary Way and B1329 Links Road, Blyth should proceed.

Key Issues

1) Following continued road safety concerns from adjacent schools and parents, residents and other interested organisations were consulted on proposed Toucan crossings.

Report Author

Stefan Bell

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**PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSINGS
A193 ROTARY WAY / B1329 LINKS ROAD, BLYTH**

Background

Introduction

1. Concerns have been expressed by residents of South Beach and South Shore estates regarding the safe crossing for pedestrians on Rotary Way and Links Road, Blyth. A PV2 survey was carried out for both locations in 2011 and the results figures were 0.9 for Rotary Way and 0.5 for the links Road, which is above the County Councils figure of 0.2 to investigate further.
2. The request for a controlled crossing was placed on the Register of requests and was put forward as a priority for the 2013 / 2014 Minor Improvements Program (LTP).
3. The proposed scheme is also part of the local cycle way development, and Toucan Crossing facilities are being proposed which will aid both pedestrians and cyclists crossing these busy roads.

Consultation

4. A scheme was prepared and was the subject of a consultation, which concluded 15th August 2013.
5. The consultation exercise involved the delivery of a consultation letter together with a plan showing details of the scheme to approximately 343 adjacent households, statutory consultees; County Councillor D Campbell, Blyth Town Council; road user organisations; and other interested parties. A plan showing the scheme is attached together with a copy of the consultation letter (see Appendix A).
6. Responses were received from 48 consultees with 41 being in favour and 7 against.
7. There was 1 statutory consultee that responded, The North East Ambulance Service recognised and appreciated the need for restrictions to improve road safety and supported the proposals.
8. Forty of the residents are in favour of the proposals and the general opinion is that the crossings are a good idea and will improve road safety for the public. Other comments indicated that the proposals are sensible and will allow people to have a safer access to beach and local estates.
9. Several residents objected to the proposals for the following reasons; The bus shelter will interrupt their coastal views, the crossing on the Links road is in the wrong location, it should be located where the existing uncontrolled crossing point is, the crossings are situated too close to the roundabout and will cause traffic jams, disappointed at proposed locations of crossings as in their opinion they are in dangerous places, the proposed bus stop location will make it dangerous for pedestrians to cross at existing uncontrolled crossing

point and generally that the crossings are not in the right locations for residents of South Shore.

Conclusion

- 10.** From the outset, the County Council has endeavoured to respond positively to local concern over road safety in this area and it is inevitable that some sections of the community will be dissatisfied with whichever decision is reached. The assessment of the results in the consultation exercise can be a contentious matter, but experience has shown that when levels of opposition are much above 30% those opposed to the scheme can engender support from neighbours, which can create difficulties in implementing the scheme. The consultation exercise showed that overall 15% of all consultees who responded were against the proposals.

- 12.** It is recommended that, in view of the results of the consultation exercise, the scheme to provide Toucan crossing facilities should proceed.

Background Papers

File Ref: M/C/1/108/10

Implications Arising Out of the Report

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	Scheme will cost approximately £150,000 and will be financed from the 2013/14 Minor Improvements Programme (LTP)
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities	None
Risk Assessment	Reduced vehicle speeds
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Considerations	Reduced vehicle speeds
Sustainability	Acceleration and braking of vehicles may increase vehicle emissions
Consultation	The relevant people and organisations were consulted
Wards	Newsham and Wensleydale

DECISION TAKEN

Title of Executive Member or Officer(s): Deirdre Campbell – Policy Board Member, Streetcare and Environment
Barry Rowland - Corporate Director of Local Services

Subject: Provision of Toucan Crossings
A193 Rotary Way, B1329 Links Road, Blyth

Consultation 48 Responses
41 For
7 Against

Decision Taken: Given the outcome of the consultation as well as the comments received it is recommended that the Toucan crossings should be provided.

Signature of Corporate Director



Date

03/10/13

APPENDIX A

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

County Hall • Morpeth • Northumberland • NE61 2EF
• Web: www.northumberland.gov.uk

Our Ref: M/C/1/108/10
Your Ref:
Contact: Mr Stefan Bell
Direct Line: 01670 624131
Fax: 01670 626136
E-mail: Stefan.Bell@northumberland.gov.uk
Thursday 4th July 2013

Dear Sir/ Madam

Rotary Way / Links Road, Blyth Proposed Toucan Crossings

Following road safety concerns at the above locations, the County Council is considering introducing two Toucan Crossing facilities.

Pedestrian/Vehicle surveys have been undertaken and the results of this have indicated that a signal controlled crossing would be justified at both locations. A Toucan Crossing would of course allow pedestrians / cyclists to cross the road "on demand" by pressing a button and this arrangement would afford greater priority for pedestrians / cyclists.

Toucan crossings aim to improve safety and reduce delays. A Toucan crossing is similar to a pelican crossing, but has sensors which can both allow pedestrians / cyclists longer to cross the road or return the signals to green if the button is pressed and no pedestrians actually cross the road.

The County Council is seeking your views on the proposals shown overleaf and a freepost response form is attached to facilitate the consultation process. It should be stressed that this is a genuine consultation and that comments received will be carefully considered.

Regrettably, it is not possible to reply to individual comments but you may wish to note that comments may be included in a report, to the Corporate Director of Local Services.

The closing date for any comments you may wish to make is shown on the response form. Please visit the following web address <http://trafficconsult.northumberland.gov.uk> if you wish to respond to this consultation online.

I thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Transport Projects Officer



CONTRACT No. 1 OF 2
DRAWING No. A3



NOTES

Existing lighting, drainage and signage to be reviewed within the vicinity of crossing as part of overall scheme.

REVISION	By	Date	Rev.
CONSULTATION			

Client
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL, MORPETH,
NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF Tel. 01670 533000

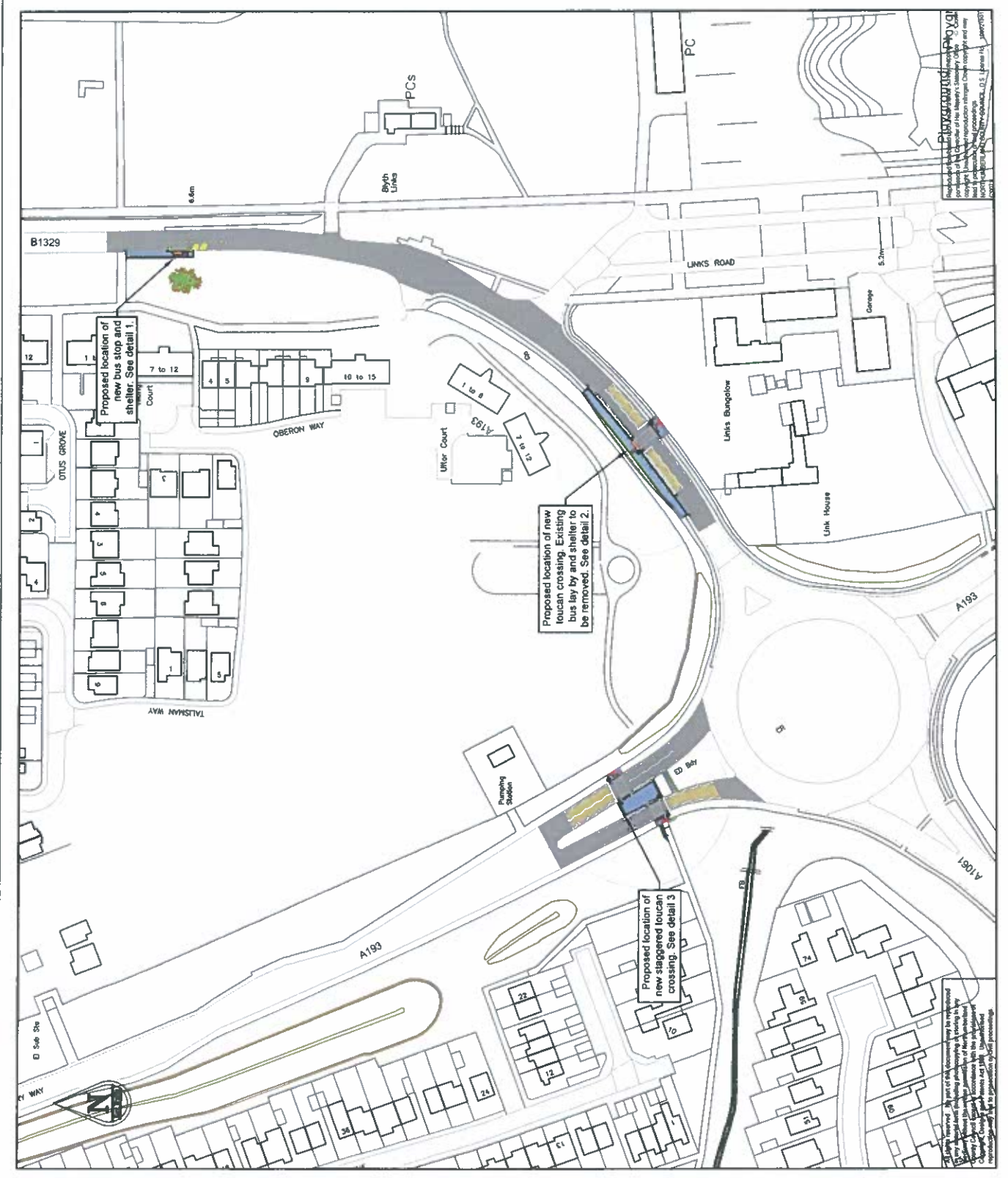
Job Title
A193 ROTARY WAY / B1329 LINKS ROAD,
BLYTH

Drawing Title
PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSINGS

Scales 1:1250



Drawn	S.B	Date	JUN 2013	Checked	K.B	Passed	J.L
Drawing Number	HE139323/01/B1329						
Negative Number/Job Number/File Number	Rev						



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CONTRACT 2 OF 2
DRAWING No. A3



NOTES

Existing lighting, drainage and signage to be reviewed within the vicinity of crossing as part of overall scheme.

REVISION
Drawing Status

CONSULTATION

Client
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY HALL, MORPETH,
NORTHUMBERLAND, NE61 2EF Tel. 01670 533000

Job Title
A193 ROTARY WAY / B1329 LINKS ROAD.
BLYTH

Drawing Title
PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSINGS

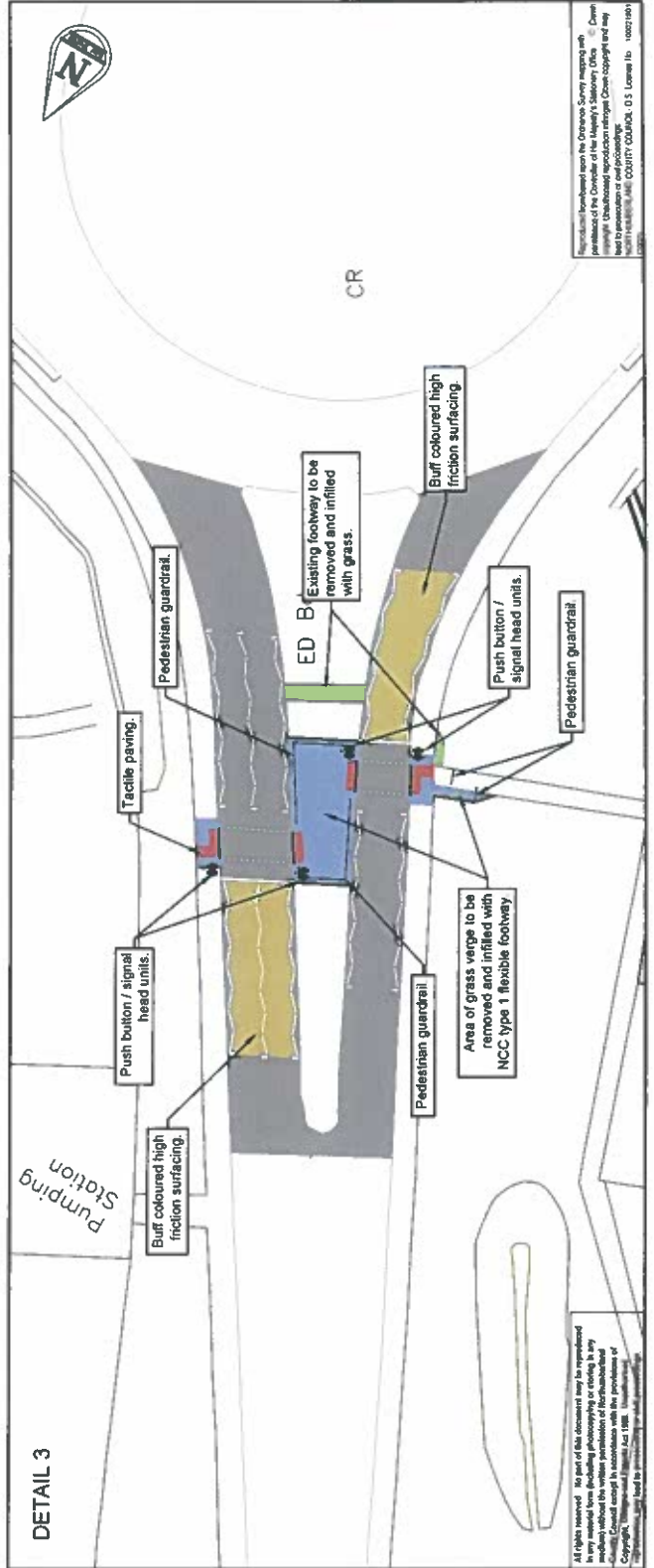
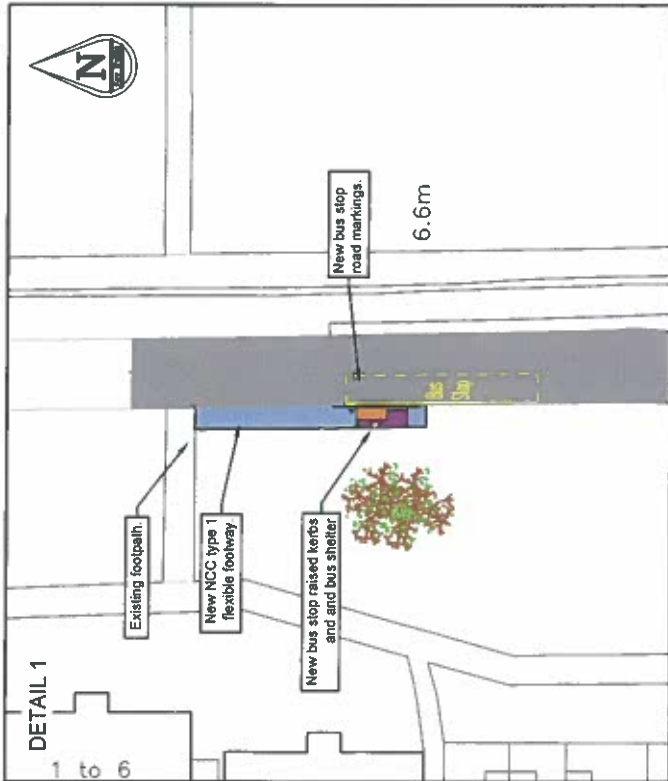
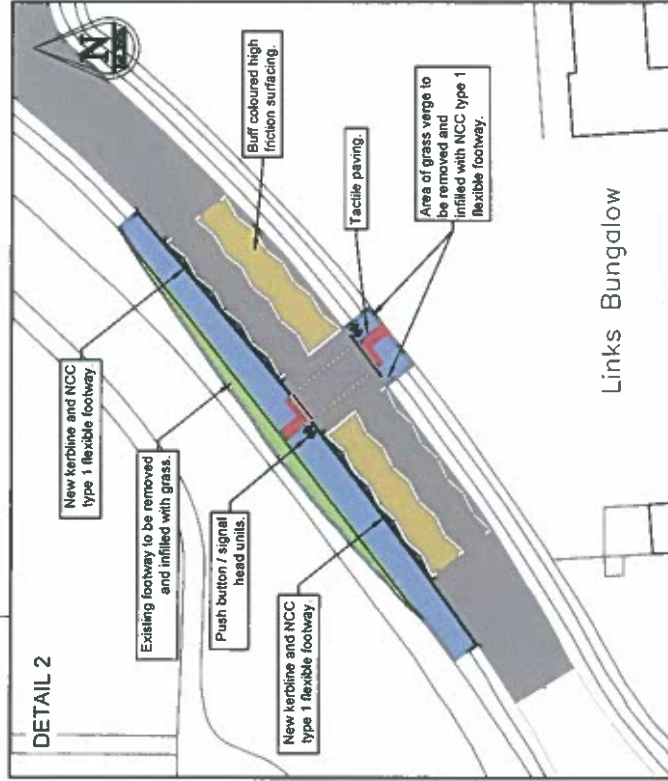
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Date JUN 2013
Checked K.B
Passed J.L

Drawing Number
HE139323/02/B1329

Rev
Negative Number/Job Number/File Number



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NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Rotary Way / Links Road, Blyth Proposed Toucan Crossings

I support the proposals

Yes

No

Any other comments:

Name:
Address:

Postcode:
E mail:

Please Return by Thursday 15th August 2013.

Initial	Name	No	Thoroughfare	Post Code	FOR	AGAINST	NEITHER	Other Relevant Comments
D	Armstrong		The Links, Links Road	NE24 3PL	1			
D	Duffy	56	Shearwater Way	NE24 3PX	1			This is a sensible proposal and will allow people to have safer access to the beach area and local estates. Perhaps consideration could be given to reduce the speed limit in Rotary Way to 30mph.
L	Bentley	10	Otway Grove	NE24 3SS	1			Although I am in favour of the proposed crossings with regards to road safety, I have to question the location of the crossing on Rotary Way. With its location being so close to the roundabout, I can foresee drivers without any anticipation of the lights turning to red blocking the roundabout, as often happens at the crossing at the Cowpen ASDA. Perhaps moving the crossing further towards Amersham Way, near where the bus stop is and the recently opened footpath onto the south shore estate would a better location?
P	Ridley	23	Teal Avenue	NE24 3PT	1			
K	Wilson	8	Otway Grove	NE24 3SS	1			
K	Hall	43	Trident Drive	NE24 3RL	1	1		I support the proposals for the crossings, but not for the bus stop to be re-sited as per the plans. Having a bus stop right next to the main path that people from the estate use to cross the road is dangerous, as if there is a bus stopped there, people will be unable to see what traffic is coming from behind it and children may cross in front of the parked bus without seeing any other vehicles which may be coming. The crossing would be better sited here and existing bus stop left where it is, as this is the main path/route that is used to cross the road.
G	Horn	49	Mallard Way	NE24 3QA	1			
S	North East Ambulance Service Fitton	52	Trident Drive	NE24 3RL	1			Thank you for your letter dated 4 th July 2013 in which you invite us to offer our comments on the above proposal. I would inform you that as an Emergency Service we recognise and appreciate the need for restrictions to improve road safety. I would thank you for your consultation on this matter and offer our support for the on-going road safety programme.
P	Beard	2	Viking Court	NE24 3UG			1	In the strongest way - I object to a bus stop and shelter being positioned in front of Viking Court 7-12. We have an uninterrupted view of the coast which premium costs were made. The new crossing would be better placed away from the bend further up to where the bus stop is proposed which would then also act as traffic calming for the constant speeding vehicles of an evening - some in excess of 60-70mph. From the bend to the turning into the port is used as "a raceway" if not anything else - please take a note "speeding traffic" concerns and try to come up with a solution to this problem.
B	Haley	24	Talisman Way	NE24 3RP	1			
B	Porter	30	Oberon Way	NE24 3RU	1			Strongly support Rotary Way crossing. Support Links Road crossing. Accept new bus stop position but would be best further south towards beach facilities, pity it could not be fitted next to Links Road crossing.
C	Willis	2	Otus Grove	NE24 3RY	1			Both locations are now very busy with traffic so these toucan crossings have been long awaited as many people now come to Blyth beach and also many young families cross Rotary Way to take young children to school from South Shore.
A	Wright	5	Elfin Way	NE24 3RQ			1	Have you considered that both proposed crossings are very near the roundabout and will most likely cause traffic jams especially for the large HGV Harbour traffic? Why not leave the existing bus stop where it is, in a lay-by? Have you noticed that the pavement and grass verge opposite the bus stop is very narrow and couldn't be widened because of the boundary fence of the Links bungalow? Also the residents of South Beach will not appreciate you moving the bus stop further away! If the Links Road crossing was built just north of the proposed new bus stop, where existing footpaths already exist, I believe that this would be more beneficial to the South Shore residents and it would also save you money!
N	Allison	74	Mallard Way	NE24 3QA	1			

A	Herron	13	Teal Avenue	NE24 3PT	1	I fully support these proposals. For a few years, I have had the opinion that pedestrian crossings are required in both of these spots. Living at Teal Avenue on South Beach, we regularly use the beach facilities, meaning we have to cross these busy roads. The traffic exiting the roundabouts on both of these roads are often travelling at high speeds and often we feel we are putting our lives in our hands, attempting to cross. Also at busy times, we can be stood, especially at the Links Road, for many minutes waiting for a safe gap in the traffic. I am wanting to give my son, who is 10, a little more independence, so as he gets a bit older, will feel confident about him crossing the roads to access the beach and the park, with crossing in place. We will feel much safer accessing the beach now. I am absolutely delighted with this decision!
	Atkinson	20	Ultor Court	NE24 3UE	1	
J	Murdy	72	Mallard Way	NE24 3QA	1	
	Reed	4	Oberon Way	NE24 3RU	1	
G	Willford	13	Taku Court	NE24 3UH	1	I think all of the proposals are fantastic ideas. Having just moved to the area and having to cross the road, at times with a pushchair, these toucan crossings will make it much easier and safer to cross.
T	Armstrong	6	Talisman Way	NE24 3RP	1	I strongly agree to this proposal as I walk across these roads on a regular basis and the speed of the traffic exiting the roundabout, coupled with the lack of indicating by the cars makes these 2 locations very dangerous for pedestrians.
S	McConnolly	9	Taku Court	NE24 3UH	1	This would be very beneficial as I have witnessed people trying to cross both roads and very nearly being knocked down. Cars travel very fast around the roundabout and onto the adjoining roads.
D	Wouldhave	46	Teal Avenue	NE24 3PT	1	Not before time.
G	Wallace	29	Trident Drive	NE24 3RL	1	It would make even more sense to put the bus stop in a lay-by cut into the existing lawn. This would be a safety improvement as sight lines up Beach Road would be maintained even while a bus was at the stop, plus traffic would continue to flow. See plan in file.
L	Richardson	4	Ultor Court	NE24 3UE	1	In relation to the enclosed proposals, I have viewed the included plans and I do not support them. To be specific it is not the idea of the crossings I am opposed to, it is their suggested location. The proposed crossings on the Links Road and Rotary Way would be placed too close to the roundabout. When active, traffic will build up onto the roundabout, blocking exit from and entry to the roundabout. This jamming traffic on the roundabout itself will lead to an increase in road traffic collisions. I would suggest the crossings are placed further north on both the Links Road and Rotary Way. Firstly on Rotary Way there is a traffic island around 100 yards north of the proposed site. This is very close to the main pathway into the estate and so, it is where most people cross the road anyway. Could this traffic island not be converted to the proposed crossing as it would be much more beneficial at this location. Secondly on the Links Road, again around 100 yards north of the proposed location there is the main estate entrance on one side of the road and on the other is the main beach access lane. This again is where most people cross the road. A crossing at this location would be far more beneficial. Placing the crossings further north would provide better support for where most people cross the road and would not cause a blockage of traffic on the roundabout.
J	Alexander	4	Taku Court	NE24 3UH	1	I did have difficulty crossing over to the beach with my three grandchildren. I would be delighted to have crossing in place. This would hopefully slow the traffic down as unfortunately not everyone sticks to the speed limit!
C	Monaohan	12	Otway Grove	NE24 3SS	1	Feel that proposed location of Links Road toucan crossing could be too near to roundabout and cause congestion. My opinion is to move it nearer to footpath before left turn into south shore.
P	Howroyd	28	Talisman Way	NE24 3RP	1	Having 6 children who attend Bede academy, this would be a lot safer for our children to cross such busy fast roads.
S	Scott	15	Teal Avenue	NE24 3PT	1	
C	Robinson	7	Cormorant Close	NE24 3PY	1	An excellent idea. Long overdue as I have small children and have seen myself wait for 15mins for a safe gap to cross due to cars not indicating and excess speed on this stretch of road.
E	Turner	5	Trident Drive	NE24 3RL	1	We are delighted that crossings are to be introduced. The existing speed restriction on Rotary Way is 40mph. I strongly feel this needs to be reduced to 30mph with the additional housing and number of children walking along this route at school drop off/collect times.
	Cowell	11	Ultor Court	NE24 3UE	1	
J	Tierman	62	Shearwater Way	NE24 3PX	1	Better late than never. Surprised it wasn't proposed long before now! I often take all of my grandchildren to the beach and it's a nightmare trying to cross the road. Perhaps 20mph limit too?
	Angles	22			1	
K	Wigham	25	Talisman Way	NE24 3RP	1	Firstly I support the idea to have some type of crossing on Links Road but I have two objections to the current plan. The site of the proposed crossing is far too near the exit of the large roundabout which could lead to traffic building up onto the roundabout it is also close to the exit from the beach car park. In addition to this, the proposed crossing is sited at the far south end of the South Shore estate (whose residents, I presume are the main users of the crossing) and I think it unlikely that dog walkers/families etc will walk down to use the crossing. The site of the proposed new bus stop on Links Road seems inappropriate. There is no lay-by, thus a bus would block the when stopped. It is also very close to the main path used by South Shore residents (actually a much more suitable place for a crossing) and would make it extremely dangerous for residents to cross onto the beach. As a resident of South Shore estate I have long felt that a crossing was needed on the busy Links Road. I have to say I am totally disappointed that you have chosen to site bus stop and crossing in such dangerous places for residents, visitors, children, dogs, bikes and cars.

