

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
JOHN O'DOWD MLA

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Your reference:
Our reference: COR 1769-2024
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Dear Ms. Steel

KNOCKBREDA ROAD – CONTROLLED CROSSING AT CHERRYVALE PLAYING FIELDS

Thank you for your email dated 15 October 2024, on behalf of the People and Communities Committee, seeking an update as to when the works would commence for the Knockbreda Road Pedestrian Crossing. I apologise for the delay in replying.

The siting of a crossing at this location, as requested by Belfast City Council to facilitate the opening of a rear access to the playing fields, has been problematic both in the location of the crossing and the significant effect it will have on residents adjacent to the site.

The original location for the proposed crossing, outside number 30, was subject to a safety audit. The safety audit found that moving the crossing east would provide increased road safety benefits by improving visibility from the west, whilst still providing a crossing on the desire line from Knock Eden Park (which is utilised as a rear entrance to Aquinas School).

A detailed design and a further safety audit of this alternative proposed crossing location, situated close to the Knock Eden Park junction, has now been completed. This assessment has confirmed that the alternative crossing at Knock Eden Park is considered appropriate and achievable for the provision of a controlled crossing.

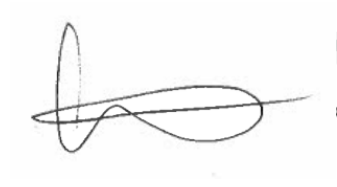
However, you may be aware this alternative location also has a significant effect on a number of residents in that they will no longer be able to park outside their houses due to the crossing itself and the associated zig zags road markings.

A request was made by Eastern Division officials for the Council to carry out further consultation with affected residents and this was initially refused by the Council. This response is disappointing given the aspiration of the council that a crossing would be provided and facility opening of a council facility.

I now believe that the Council has agreed to carry out a further consultation and officials are happy to contribute and input to this process.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a vertical loop on the left, a horizontal line crossing it, and a larger loop on the right.

EMMA STOCKMAN

Private Secretary to the Minister