How to use the new puffin crossing in North Yorkshire

The crossing monitors pedestrians that have pressed the button to call the green man; if a person walks away or crosses before the signals change, the request to change will be cancelled.

The crossing also monitors pedestrians as they cross the highway so that a short time after they have finished crossing the signals will change back to the green signal.

These crossings are designed to make the crossings safer for people crossing the road and reduce unnecessary delays for drivers.

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A new type of pedestrian crossing is being introduced in North Yorkshire, this is called a PUFFIN Crossing (Pedestrian User Friendly Crossing). You will start to find these types of pedestrian crossings at traffic signal junctions where pedestrian crossing facilities are fitted and at dedicated crossing points throughout North Yorkshire.

The main difference from the older style of crossing is that the Red & Green Man figure is no longer on the far side of the road - it is now next to where you stand when you press the button.

Unlike a ‘Pelican Crossing’, it does not have a flashing amber for cars or a flashing green man.

Pedestrians are monitored as they cross the road and allowed extra time if they need it before the signals start to change back to green for vehicles.

There are also detectors that watch you once you have pressed the button – should you walk away from the crossing the ‘wait for signal’ light will go out and the signals will not change.

When the button is pressed, vehicles on the road are monitored and gaps in the traffic are looked for; when a gap occurs on both directions at the same time, the signals will start to change to allow you to cross. Should no gap in traffic come after a set time (usually 30 seconds) the signals will change anyway. It will take a little longer for the green man to be displayed as extra time is given on the red signal to make sure vehicles stop before you cross.

Once you start to cross the road a small box pointing towards you from the other side of the road will monitor your movement as you cross to allow the right amount of time for you to get across the road before the signals start to change again.