

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
HIGHWAYS FORUM FOR HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH

26TH JANUARY 2017

RESPONSE TO PETITION: REQUEST FOR THE REINTRODUCTION
OF TRAFFIC ISLANDS AT THE JUNCTION OF THE HOLLOW, EARL
SHILTON

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To report on the outcome of investigations following the presentation of a petition requesting the re-installation of the traffic islands at the junction of The Hollow, Station Road, Earl Shilton.

Background

2. A petition containing 500 signatures was presented by the lead petitioner, Ms Helen Cobey, on the 26th January 2017 for the re-installation of a some traffic islands at the junction of The Hollow, Station Road, Earl Shilton.
3. As officers had already been investigating the possibility of re-instatement of the traffic islands at the request of Mrs Janice Richards CC, it has been possible to finalise this work prior to the Hinckley and Bosworth Highway Forum of the 26th January 2017.
4. As part of this work, officers also investigated the request for the installation of traffic signals on the currently uncontrolled exit from the private car park at the rear of the properties at this junction. This had been highlighted as being an issue

Outcome of Investigations

5. Following site meetings with Mrs Janice Richards CC, officers have carried out further site assessments and observations at the junction of The Hollow and Station Road.
6. The accident statistics associated with the uncontrolled exit have been checked and it has been established that there have been no accidents pertaining to this car park exit since the installation of the traffic signals in 1985.

7. Officers have written to the land owners to remind them of their duty to ensure that their car park is used in a safe and responsible manner and that drivers should exit with caution and be mindful of pedestrians crossing at the junction.
8. With regards to the traffic islands officers have investigated and considered the matters put forward. It has been concluded that two out of the three islands could be reinstated. Site observation indicated these two are the most heavily used islands.
9. It should be noted however that if the islands are reinstated, then the issue of vehicles being unable to pass a bus should two buses be present in the layby is likely to be a consequence. In requesting the reinstatement of the islands, the County Council would expect the Parish Council and community to acknowledge and accept this potential situation and the likely inconvenience it could cause
10. Re-introduction of the traffic island on the eastern arm of the junction outside the Earl Shilton Building Society is rather more complicated and without consultation on the removal of the parking bays and the revocation of the parking order we would not be able to reintroduce the island. The parking bays are well used and we would anticipate that there would be objections to their removal. The time to carry out the consultation together with the costs would cause delays to the scheme and would exceed the budget that we have been able to secure.

Conclusion

11. A petition submitted to the County council requested reinstatement of pedestrian islands at The Hollow, Earl Shilton. As part of this investigation, officers also considered concerns around the uncontrolled car park exit onto this junction. The findings of this work are summarised below.
12. The only way to eliminate the issue of cars exiting uncontrolled from these car parks would be to
 - 1) signal the exit however this is on private land and the County Council does not have jurisdiction to do this. This would also have a severe impact on the operation of the junction or;
 - 2) close access to these car parks. As the car parks have been in existence with the lights operating since 1985, it would be difficult to justify its closure as there have been no reportable accidents at this junction associated with vehicles exiting the car park.in the past five years.

13. Whilst the junction is technically signalled correctly we do appreciate the concerns of the residents and in light of this we propose to reinstate two pedestrian islands at the junction. One will be on the Nationwide Building Society side of the junction and one on Station Road.
14. Without removing the newly installed parking bays we do not feel that we can re-instate the one outside the Earl Shilton Building.
15. It must be noted that we will not be installing beepers at the junction. These would stop sounding before the pedestrians completed crossing the road and whilst we understand that the more elderly pedestrians will stop at the island as this is what they want to do, we would prefer that pedestrians complete the crossing in one movement as designed. The pedestrian stage is what is called an All Round Ped which means that all traffic is stopped when the green man is showing. The timings are calculated as per the DfT standard for pedestrians to cross in one movement ie the green man, the following blackout (blank display) and the red man are calculated to ensure that pedestrian have enough time to cross the road. If the crossing was to be designed as a staggered crossing (ie complete in two movements). The islands would need to be much larger (approximately 12m x 4m) which we cannot accommodate in the road space available.

Recommendation

16. Members are asked to note the content of this report and that the County Council will arrange for the works detailed above to be carried out this financial year, it is anticipated that we could have this work completed February half term.
17. Cost of the scheme is estimate to be £16,000 and will be from the Hinckley Area Project funding.

Officer to Contact

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Background Papers

The petition containing 500 signatures is held on the Chief Executive's Department petition file.

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