

Comments from Cllr P Williams (Sketchley & Stretton) on the Updated Design Rugby Road Brookside Junction

I offer the comments on the revised junction changes at the Rugby Road / Brookside Junction.

I welcome the review undertaken by the Project Team to address the comments they received. Particularly relating to the loss of the mature trees in Rugby Road.

The revised scheme has raised the following new comments:

- 1. The provision of the new right-hand turn marking for north bound traffic into Brookside is a welcome change, however from the plan given it is less than clear how south bound traffic will make a right-hand turn into Dudley Rise. I would welcome confirmation this has been considered.**
- 2. The retention of the mature trees are welcome, however, I would request confirmation that tree specialists are consulted to ensure an retaining wall footings will not compromise the tree roots.**
- 3. I consider that the elimination of the footpath of the south bound carriageway up Sketchley Hill will make cycling up the hill dangerous, as the hill is difficult for all but the fittest cyclist. The route up the service road is even more difficult and thus the scheme will need to make sure cyclists are adequately advised of the danger and that only the service road should be used.**
- 4. The loss of the pedestrian footpath north bound on the east side could trap pedestrians at the point of the uncontrolled crossing and thus forcing a crossing at this point. Steps should be in place to ensure pedestrians walking north bound are advised that the route is blocked further down the hill and advise transfer to the service road using a suitable foot path.**
- 5. The scheme would benefit from keep clear signs to allow south bound traffic turning into Hillside Road to turn across the traffic when queues are forming north bound for the traffic lights. This will prevent right turning traffic from holding flow south bound on Rugby Road. A similar benefit will be associated with the Aldridge Road turn further along Rugby Road.**

In terms of the need, benefit and risks of providing two lanes southbound, merging halfway up the hill, I remain sceptical of the balanced benefit. I must rely upon the expert modelling that has been carried out by the project team, of the overall cost benefit analysis.

