

**Cllr. Brenda Seaton - Thurmaston Parish Councillor,
Charnwood Borough Councillor for Thurmaston
and County Councillor for Thurmaston Ridgemere
(incorporating Barkby, Barkby Thorpe, Beeby, South Croxton & Thurmaston)**



Attempt to ease congestion along Barkby Thorpe Lane

Back in April last year I wrote in the Thurmaston Times about Highways' response to a petition. Several factors were put forward as to the causes and a few proposed actions were identified that would ease the congestion. The first of these actions became live in late November, the installation of a traffic camera in the centre of Thurmaston roundabout.



The camera will be monitored at Area Traffic Control, which is a department for Leicester City Council who look after the maintenance and monitoring of traffic signals on behalf of the County. They have a vast control room displaying screens for monitoring junctions across the City and County and can change timings, but only if there is a major incident on the network, or if they are dealing with a direct complaint.



Will it relieve congestion? I very much doubt it. The first time it could or should have improved congestion was when Melton Road, in the old village, was officially closed for Lights Up, which unfortunately coincided with Black Friday weekend at Costco. When I enquired whether any action was taken to ease the traffic flow I was informed, "If it's just sheer volume of traffic or blocking back from the other junction then there's only so much that they can do."

However, "...repeated issues with timings would hopefully be reported and fixed if possible!"



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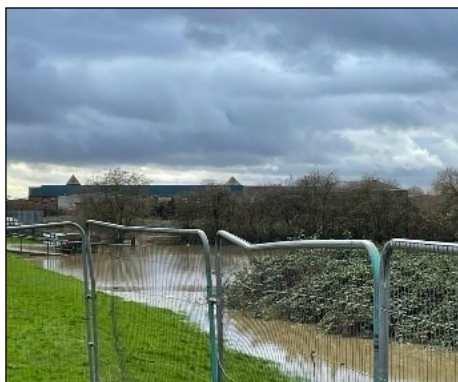
Proposed office buildings may be a threat to flooding and highway safety

The proposed commercial units hug the western boundary of 744 and 746 and the partial southern boundary of 744. The development is to be raised above ground level making the overall height dominate the skyline of 744 and 746.



Site history shows that the land proposed as a car park serving the offices was stripped several years ago of mature poplars, a variety of smaller trees, shrubs as well as native hedging and grasses which helped store water. The earthen bund forms a flood defence that runs behind the Memorial Hall to the rear of 746 where it changed to a hard flood defence built into the floor of a car workshop. Over the years these flood defences have worked well, holding back fluvial flooding after periods of intense rainfall. The land at the rear of the Memorial Hall floods several times a year, as did the scrub land that is now concreted over.

The bund and the scrub land, stored water whereas the hard flood defences will not and will instead force the floodwater to rise in another area. Before the flood bund was put in, Melton Road flooded on an annual basis.



There are also Highway concerns that stem from the lack of parking and the lack of street parking.



Thurmaston Lights Up!

A PICTURE PAINTS A THOUSAND WORDS:

What more can I say?



If you have any concerns

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