



THE WARWICK SOCIETY

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28 September 2017

Carolyn Burrows, Communities Group
Warwickshire CC, Shire Hall, Warwick

Proposed zebra crossing and traffic island at the top of Cape Road, Warwick

While the Society supports making it easier for people to walk in the town's streets, to reduce car use and for the health benefits and pleasure that walking gives, it objects to these proposals.

The proposals have come out of the blue, with, as far as the Society is aware, no prior discussion with interested parties. They come in isolation from other proposals on which the Society understands that preparatory work continues, for Northgate and for its junction with Cape Road, immediately abutting the site of the proposed crossing, and interacting with it.

If the Society had been involved in any such discussion, it would have queried the reasons for having a crossing just here. It is not on the route to and from school of any significant number of children. Between 0815 and 0845 on one morning last week, for example, only three children who crossed Cape Road between Northgate and Priory Mews. Two were walking with their father from the west side of Cape Road towards Coten End school, one with her mother walked through Priory Park and continued towards Westgate School. Substantial numbers of adults crossed this stretch of road, most walking towards Northgate, and a high proportion crossed at the first bend to the north.

This confirms that there is a significant flow of people on foot between the town centre and the top of path which runs past Priory Park, but that the proposed site for a crossing is not on their 'line of desire'. That concept is important in planning for the use of streets by people on foot, simply because it gives them the shortest visible route to their destination. A crossing at the bend in the road would serve this purpose much better, and would be clearly visible to the drivers of vehicles approaching in either direction.

The proposed crossing equipment would damage the setting of the listed Northgate, and its being very close to the gate to the house will make it inconvenient and potentially dangerous for cars to enter and leave the premises. The two warning signs are superfluous, and damage the setting of the registered Priory Park. The side and rear elevation of Northgate are an important part of the significance of a particularly important listed building, and its appreciation should not be visually damaged by traffic clutter. There is no evidence that this has been taken into account in developing these proposals.

The proposal states that a traffic island will slow southbound traffic approaching the crossing, but it is superfluous: the bend which is about 30 metres after the island, and 30 metres before the crossing, already does this much more effectively.

Please acknowledge receiving this letter and treat it also as a Freedom of Information request to send copies (electronically if that is easiest) of all of the documents and drawings, emails, notes of meetings, etc, which explain the rationale for the crossing, the island, and their siting, of the requests which the Council has received for them, of the alternatives considered and of the safety assessment of each option.

On receipt of this information, we may wish to make further comments.

James Mackay, Chairman



Carolyn Burrows <carolynburrows@warwickshire.gov.uk>

Proposed Zebra crossing - Cape Road near Northgate, Warwick

1 message

[Redacted]

29 September 2017 at 16:38

To: carolynburrows@warwickshire.gov.uk

Dear Carolyn Burrows

While we are grateful that Warwickshire County Council has given notification, with a drawing, about the proposed zebra crossing outside Northgate, we would have appreciated personal contact with an explanation about how this might work in conjunction with the doors that we open to use for vehicles to access or leave our property. We are concerned that it will increase the possibility of accidents rather than be a positive contribution for pedestrians. The proposed crossing is at a point which is almost never used by pedestrians.

Currently virtually everybody crossing Cape Road does so at the corner and we believe that that is the place for a crossing, but we believe rather than an actual zebra crossing a raised area (as in the High Street) would be much better as this would have the effect of slowing down cars as well as giving pedestrians the opportunity to cross safely. There is congestion for about two hours out of twenty four each working day at the top of Cape Road and a crossing on the corner, which, allowing pedestrians and drivers to have a better view of each other, would be of particular value at those times.

The wall of Northgate has been there for over 200 years and the gates too, for in line with it, we still have a place in the wing of the house for a coach, with what were stables next to it. Northgate is one of Warwick's best examples of the town's architecture, post the 1694 Fire. New street furniture and installations like a zebra crossing will diminish the aesthetic pleasure that it gives to pedestrians, including many tourists, who are important to the town's economy.

We would ask the County Council to reconsider the positioning of the crossing. We notice from the drawing that the abandoned police station is sketched out, but wonder if any consideration about the new medical centre has been included in the thinking about the crossing.

Yours sincerely

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