

**Proposed Decision to be taken by the
Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
on or after 21st February 2014**

York Road, Leamington Spa – Cycle Link and Traffic Restrictions

Recommendation

That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves that the proposed Warwickshire County Council (York Road, Leamington Spa) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2014 is made as advertised.

1.0 Key Issues

- 1.1 York Road is a residential road which runs between Adelaide Road and Avenue Road in Leamington Spa.
- 1.2 A dedicated turning facility for cyclists is proposed from Adelaide Road into York Road, linking established cycling routes in the area around the railway station with routes in the western end of the town centre and a new route within Victoria Park.
- 1.3 To facilitate this turning movement it is proposed that the turn into York Road be restricted to cyclists only (as shown on Plan TR-8925, attached at **Appendix A**), with vehicular access maintained using Adelaide Road and Avenue Road.
- 1.4 Consistent with this approach of reducing conflict between vehicular and cyclist movements, for reasons of safety, it is also proposed that right turns from York Road into Adelaide Road be prohibited for vehicular traffic. York Road would remain a through route for westbound traffic turning left onto Adelaide Road and would remain two-way for the remainder of its length. Motorists using on-street and private parking facilities would therefore still be able to travel eastwards toward Avenue Road.
- 1.5 Prior to formal consultation, an independent Stage 2 Road Safety Audit was carried out, with recommendations incorporated into the final design.
- 1.6 The proposed Warwickshire County Council (York Road, Leamington Spa) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2014 was advertised on 28th November 2013 in accordance with statutory requirements for the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order. In addition, notices were posted on street and consultation carried out with residents in the area.

- 1.7 During the consultation period, four objections were received, including one from Warwickshire Police. The reasons given for the objections are detailed below.

Objection [2]

The proposed splitter island at the western end of York Road will make the right turn difficult for cyclists turning northbound on Adelaide Road.

Response

The geometry of the splitter island has been designed to complement the proposed restriction on right turns for motor vehicles by directing them left at the junction line. However, cycles will be able to line up at the junction line in the same position as in the current layout; coupled with reduced conflicting turning movements by motorists, this manoeuvre for cyclists will therefore be made easier.

Objection [3]

Removing York Road as a through route for vehicular traffic will cause congestion on Adelaide Road and pressure on the roundabout junction of Adelaide Road and Avenue Road.

One objection also highlighted that should the River Leam flood, York Road is one of only two routes for traffic on the southern bank.

Response

Traffic counts were carried out prior to the design of the revised road layout and traffic restrictions, which highlighted that the majority of traffic in the area is already using Adelaide Road and Avenue Road as the through route. It is accepted that some vehicles previously using York Road will be displaced into Adelaide Road; however, Adelaide Road is an A-class road (A452) and as such is more suited to through traffic than the D-class residential York Road.

Objection [1]

Vehicles, on leaving parking facilities in York Road, may attempt to turn in the road to head back toward Avenue Road, potentially causing conflict with cyclists in the carriageway.

Response

The levels of parking and carriageway width do not lend themselves to this turning manoeuvre; it is expected that road users would continue from York Road onto Adelaide Road southbound. On occasion, when levels of parking do permit space to turn in the road, this would be no different to any other two-way section of carriageway and similarly relies on awareness and visibility between motorists and cyclists.

Objection [1]

Removing vehicular entry into York Road from Adelaide Road will impede access for emergency services.

Response

Although the geometry of the proposed junction layout, associated signs and road markings are designed to strongly discourage the prohibited turning movements, none will be physically restricted. In cases of emergency, the prohibited movements will be permitted by emergency vehicles.

Objection [2]

The proposed link does not fulfil its brief of “forming a cycle link between the railway station and the town centre”. Cyclists would be better using the existing footpath alongside the river and through the Pump Room Gardens to access the town centre.

Response

Consideration has been given to designating these footpaths as shared use pedestrian and cycling facilities. However, discussions with Warwick District Council have suggested that present high levels of pedestrian usage would create additional conflict if volumes of cycle traffic were increased.

In addition, the proposed cycle link will connect existing routes from the railway station (via the new Victoria Park link) through to the Shires Retail Park and the south-west corner of Leamington Spa, which in turn connects with established cycle routes to Warwick.

2.0 Proposal

- 2.1 That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning approves that the proposed Warwickshire County Council (York Road, Leamington Spa) (Traffic Regulation) Order 2014 is made as advertised.

3.0 Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 3.1 Funding is available for the financial year 2014/15.

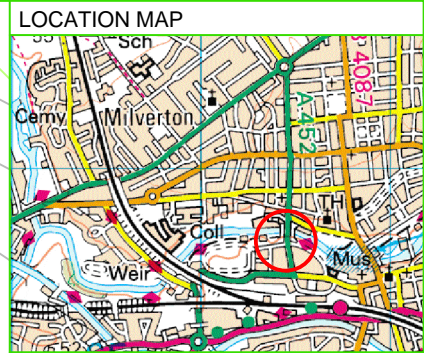
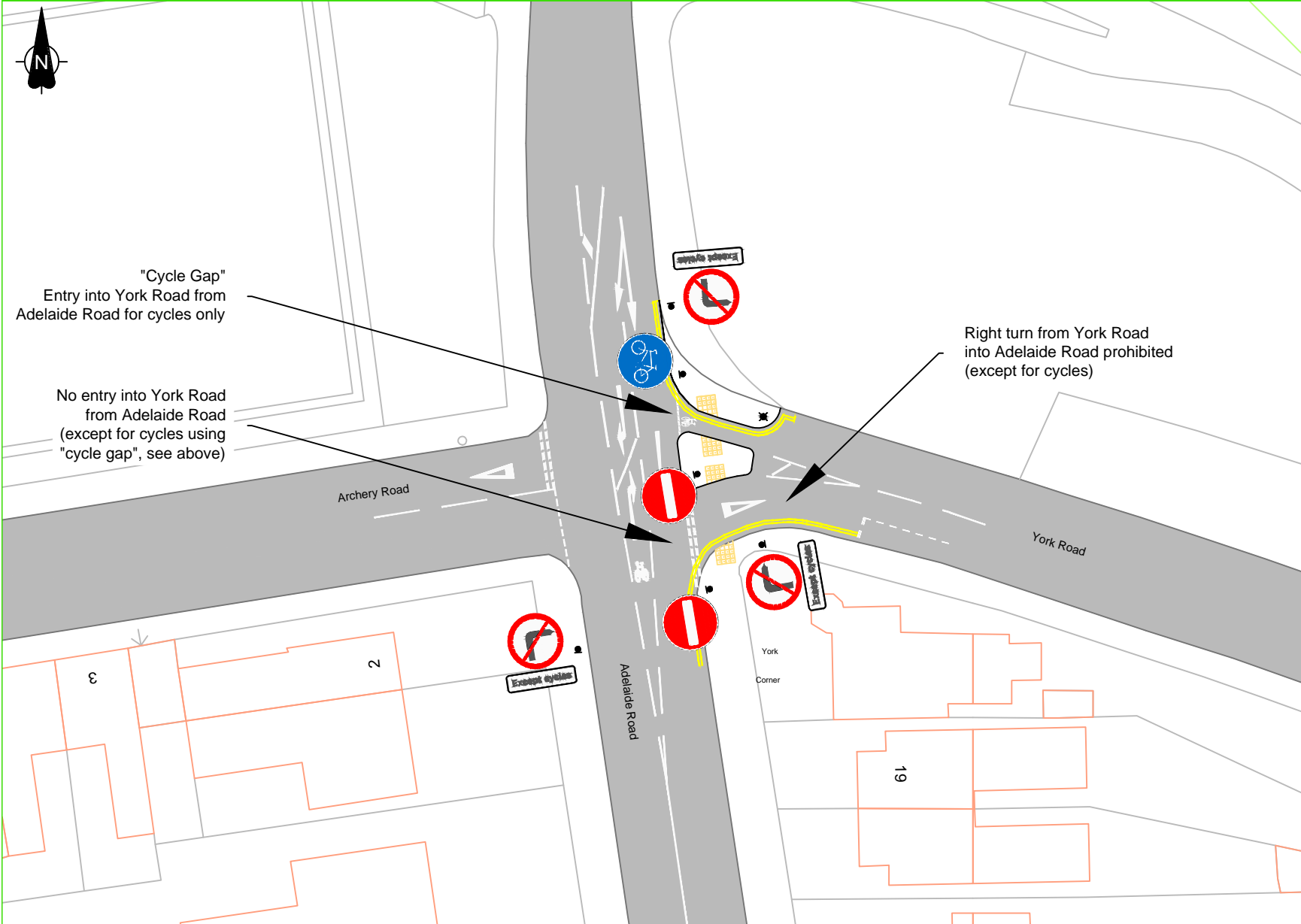
Appendices

Appendix A – Plan TR-8925

Background papers

Letters and e-mails of objection

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NOTES

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Warwickshire County Council.

REV	DATE	BY	CHK	AMENDMENT
1	21/10/13	PM	-	Lane markings altered
-	--/--	-	-	-
-	--/--	-	-	-
-	--/--	-	-	-
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Drawing title

**Proposed Moving Traffic Restrictions
Cycle Link
York Road
Leamington Spa**

Project title

York Road - Cycles Only

Drawn by	Checked by
PM	CB
Date	
19 June 2013	
Scale	
1:500 @ A4_L	
Drawing number	
TR-8925	