

**Minutes of the meeting held by the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning on
17 April 2019 - Objection to Proposed Traffic Signals with Toucan Crossing
Facilities at A425 Banbury Road, Warwick**

Present:

Warwickshire County Council

Councillor Jeff Clarke – Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi – Warwickshire County Councillor (Warwick South)
Jo Archer – Team Leader, Principal Development Management Engineer
Debbie Schneider – Section Manager Highways, External Design Construction and
Technical Review
Paul Williams – Democratic Services Team Leader

Representing King's High School for Girls

Jim Button

Members of the Public

Barrie Noble
Sarah Hunt
Amanda Thompson
Jacqui Grey
Jon Grey

Sheila Shakespeare
Andy Thompson
Marilyn Kupshik
Anthony Kupshik
Gillian Dale

The Chair welcomed officers of the Council, members of the public and a representative of King's High School, Warwick to the meeting.

Following a brief introduction when it was explained that the crossing proposed in the report was required as part of the planning permission pertaining to the new King's High School development in South Warwick the Chair invited comments from members of the public. These are summarised as follows.

- Whilst the school planning permission agreed the principle of the construction of a new junction it was not until February 2019 that the details became clear. Generally speaking, there is no objection to the principle of the junction it is the detail of it that requires scrutiny.
- There is no evidence that the safety audits that have been carried out have taken account of the needs of pedestrians.
- The Banbury Road is dangerous to cross. It is remarkable that consideration was not apparently given to the inclusion of a controlled crossing of that road as part of the junction design.
- The Head Teacher of King's High School has expressed his support for a controlled crossing of the Banbury Road as a part of the junction construction. The school are the developers and it is the developers who can agree what is to be provided.

- There is a sense that the County Council is hiding behind the planning process and using the requirements imposed by it as a means of absolving itself of any responsibility.
- People accessing Warwick Technology Park have to cross the Banbury Road. Any controlled crossing would benefit them too.
- Vehicles are frequently recorded travelling at over 45mph along the Banbury Road at the point in question.
- Pedestrians attempting to cross the road sometimes attempt to do so by the roundabout junction with the Myton Road. This too is very dangerous. The issue is not limited to children of senior school age. People of all ages need to cross the road. The traffic on the Banbury Road can be running very fast or stationary depending on the time of day.
- A recognition of the dangers presented by traffic on the Myton Road prompted the Warwickshire County Council to install safety measures. That approach is now needed on the Banbury Road. It is only a matter of time that the increase in the number of motor vehicles and pedestrians means that a serious accident will occur.
- The purpose of a consultation exercise is to inform people of the proposals and invite their views and suggestions. The County Council should listen to and act on the responses to that consultation.
- It would appear that the changes required to the proposed crossing would be slight, costing as little as £5000. Fresh traffic modelling should not take long to undertake and a minor change should not require any update to the planning permission. Regardless of the cost however, it should be safety that takes precedent over traffic flows.

Mr Jim Button, representing King's High School reminded the meeting that the school is the developer. It was recognised early on that a new entrance would be required for the school. It was to the County Council and the expertise that it's highways officers possessed that the school turned initially.

Councillor Parminder Singh Birdi, the Warwickshire County Councillor for Warwick South, thanked officers for their work and the members of the public present for their input. Councillor Singh Birdi stated that he shared the concerns of the residents, parents and the school and made the following observations.

- 1) Residents of Bridge End wishing to safely cross the Banbury Road have to walk to the crossing by St Nicholas Park.
- 2) Many workers from the Technology Park walk to and from Warwick. A significant number of these cross the Banbury Road.
- 3) There are several schools along the Myton Road. Any crossing would benefit children from all the schools.

Councillor Singh Birdi suggested that the scheme should be reviewed. Quoting the County Council's Safer Routes to School Policy the meeting was reminded of its stated responsibility to provide a safe means of reaching school.

Councillor Singh Birdi concluded by offering to contribute to the cost of any crossing from his delegated highways budget.

In response to the concerns raised, officers of the Council and the Chair made the following points:

- The junction was required as part of the planning permission which itself was granted by Warwick District Council.
- The due process for evaluating the scheme had been followed.
- It is only possible to require a developer to put in place measures to mitigate issues that have arisen as a direct consequence of their scheme. Planning regulations state that a developer should not be required to pay for the installation of a scheme to mitigate for the impact of other developments.
- The assessment of the scheme had concluded that relatively few King's High School pupils would need to cross the Banbury Road.
- If the developer cannot be required to pay for a controlled crossing the burden would fall on the County Council. The Council does not have the resources to pay for such work.
- The Department for Transport set guidelines for the installation of crossings. The County Council has to adhere to these. The Banbury Road is very busy. To place a controlled crossing across it would have a direct impact on traffic flows up into the town centre and across to Gallows Hill. This is because all traffic at the junction would be required to stop to allow pedestrians to cross. A possible solution to the issue of stopping all traffic at once would be to stagger the crossing. (Effectively two crossings each covering half the width of the road.

Mr Jim Button, representing King's High School, stated that if a staggered crossing was deemed feasible then the cost of the crossing would be met by the school.

The meeting considered the length of time it would take to undertake modelling on the basis of a staggered, controlled crossing. Recognising that the school is set to open in September 2019, members of the public and officers agreed that this would need to be undertaken as soon as possible.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning agrees to the deferral of any decision on the installation of Toucan crossings as part of a traffic signal controlled junction at A425 Banbury Road, Warwick pending a review of the scheme to assess the feasibility of the installation of a staggered (controlled) crossing of the A425, Banbury Road, Warwick.**
- 2) That the review of the scheme including traffic modelling be completed as soon as is possible and at the latest by 29 May 2019.**

The meeting rose at 12.45

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Chair