

Portfolio Holder Decisions/Leader Decisions

Date: Friday 4 August 2023

Time: 12.00 pm

Membership

Councillor Peter Butlin

Councillor Jan Matecki

Items on the agenda: -

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement (WCC-3) | 3 - 16 |
| 2. Surrender and re-grant of leasehold interest | 17 - 26 |

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

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Portfolio Holder Decision A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement (WCC-3)

Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning
Date of decision	4 August 2023
	Signed

1. Decision taken

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning

1. Considers the reasons for objection as appended to this Report at Appendix 2 and if satisfied that the scheme should proceed despite the objection lodged
2. Approves the progression of the A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement (WCC-3) consisting of the introduction of traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities on the 'Fords Foundry and Queensway roundabouts, as shown on the plans at Appendix 1.

2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 Following the consultation and subsequent engagement work between officers and objectors, there remains a single objection. That objection relates to the Council's overall record and approach to active travel and promotion of highways schemes and not to the specifics of the scheme at A452 Europa Way Corridor Improvement (WCC-3).
- 2.2 It remains the view of highways officers that this scheme is required to ensure that the volume of traffic across the corridor now, and increases anticipated arising from developments and job creation along the A452 Europa Way corridor can be effectively and safely accommodated.

3. Background information

- 3.1 A statutory consultation took place from 9th February 2023 to 14th March 2023 on proposals for the signalisation of the roundabouts of Fords Foundry and Queensway roundabouts together with a Toucan crossing on Myton Road. A total of three objections were received during this consultation period.
- 3.2 Through dialogue and changes in the design approach two of the objectors' concerns have been removed. However, one objection remains. The reasons for the objection from the remaining objector are paraphrased below. All correspondence relating to the objection including officers' replies can be seen

within the supporting documentation appended to this report.

Main points from 1st Objector Letter (Dated 17/02/2023)

- Concerns over the evidence that justifies the comment that “cycling and walking” will be promoted and incentivised.
- Lack of meaningful cycling provision.
- Walking routes have been provided only where they fit into the junction signalisation plan and deviate significantly from desire lines.
- Lack of crossing facility from the new developments on the Western side of Europa Way towards Leamington Shopping Park and business district.
- Once this scheme is delivered, how do you intend to deal with the induced traffic.
- Concerns around increased air quality resulting from queuing or slow-moving traffic.

Main points from 2nd Objector Letter (Dated 13/06/2023)

- Frustration that the council seems infinitely better at delivering highway capacity schemes than any form of sustainable or active travel project.
- The proposed scheme only serves to encourage greater car dependency with limited opportunity for vulnerable road user provision.

- 3.3 The proposed highway improvements at the Fords Foundry and Queensway roundabouts will see each of these junctions become signalised. This is considered to be essential to accommodate the perceived increase in traffic now and in future arising from developments and job creation along the A452 Europa Way corridor and form growth outside the immediate corridor. Without such enhancements to effectively manage traffic demand, then the predicted growth in the area is unlikely to be fully realised, as delays and congestion will continue to be a barrier unless improvements are made.
- 3.4 Signalisation will form the principal means of traffic control and management, however measures such as additional lane provision and continued promotion and improvement of pedestrian and cycling are also being considered in connection with the proposals. This includes enhanced facilities across Fords Foundry field and adjacent to the McDonalds restaurant which in turn links to the National Cycle Route.
- 3.5 The improvements will also see several improvements to crossing facilities for pedestrians and cyclists, enabling them to cross Tachbrook Park Drive and the Europa northbound approaches to both roundabouts. A standalone Toucan Crossing on Myton Road is also proposed.
- 3.6 The inclusion of a pedestrian crossing on the southern arm of the Queensway roundabout, which was not illustrated in the plan included as part of the consultation, has since been included as part of the overall scheme proposal to further address issues raised by respondents to the consultation. It is subject to Road Safety Audit process.
- 3.7 The second piece of correspondence suggests that the residual reason for objection relates to the perception of the objector that the Council is too focused on delivering highway improvements that benefit car travel to the detriment of

active travel and sustainable modes of travel. As such the objection now seems to be to the Council's generic approaches to cycling and walking provision and not specifically related to this scheme.

3.8 The highway scheme will deliver notable benefits to cycling and walking through the inclusion of pedestrian crossings and improved links which reinforces the connectivity to facilities and amenities that largely removes the barriers towards cycling and walking being considered as a viable alternative to the private car.

4. Financial implications

4.1 The cost of the improvements will be £6.3 million which was secured by Section 106 monies principally from developments present on the western side of the A452 Europa Way corridor. Additional funding of £3.6 million was provided by Coventry & Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (CWLEP).

5. Environmental implications

5.1 The scheme once constructed will deliver notable benefits to the highway network in terms of reducing traffic delays and congestion across the network. Without such an improvement then these delays could have implications on air quality and the health and wellbeing of persons.

Report Author	Simon Prescott simonprescott@warwickshire.gov.uk,
Assistant Director	Scott Tompkins Director of Environment, Planning and Transport
Strategic Director	Mark Ryder Executive Director for Communities
Portfolio Holder	Portfolio Holder for Transport and Planning

Urgent matter?	No
Confidential or exempt?	No
Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?	No

List of background papers

- Appendix 1 – Highways Consultation Plan
- Appendix 2 - Email thread of objection(s) and Officers response in reply
- Appendix 3 – Public Notice

Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Jan Matecki

Executive Director – Mark Ryder

Director – Scott Tompkins

Head of Service – Nicola van der Hoven

Legal – Caroline Gutteridge and Nichola Vine

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – Joanna Kemp

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors – Chilvers and Birdi

NOTES

All traffic signal equipment and road markings shown are indicative and may be subject to change during detailed design or during installation due to site constraints.



REFERENCE	DESCRIPTION
[Red line]	Boundary of Site
[Black line]	Kerbs, Combined Drainage Kerbs and Edgings
[Red hatched box]	Tactile Paving - Controlled
[Orange hatched box]	Tactile Paving - Uncontrolled
[Yellow hatched box]	Tactile Paving - Warning Corridor
[Blue dashed line]	Pedestrian Guardrail
[Black square]	Proposed Signs
[Light bulb icon]	Proposed Street Lighting
[Light bulb icon with circle]	Existing Street Lighting to remain
[Blue camera icon]	CCTV
[Blue pole icon]	Traffic Signal Poles
[Blue box icon]	Traffic Signal Controllers
[Green square]	Proposed Unit Bollard
[Green hatched box]	Proposed Maintenance Bay - Grasscrete
[Yellow hatched box]	Footway
[Orange hatched box]	Shared Footway/Cycleway
[Brown hatched box]	Hard-standing area - maintenance areas
[Green hatched box]	Verge/Embankment/Landscape Area
[Grey hatched box]	Carriageway
[Yellow dashed line]	Existing Double Yellow Lines
[Orange dashed line]	Proposed Double Yellow Lines

A	EM	To include revised layout and RM	20/10/22
REV	DRN	AMENDMENT	DATE



Engineering Design Services
 Environment Services, Communities
 Shire Hall Post Room
 Warwick
 CV34 4SP
 Tel: 01926 410410
 Web: www.warwickshire.gov.uk



PROJECT
A452 - Europa Way Corridor Improvements
 Queensway Roundabout to Princes Drive

TITLE
CONSULTATION
GENERAL ARRANGEMENT
 Design Phase: Detailed Design

Dim	EA	Ch'd	NC	App'd	NC
Date	08-09-22	Date	24-01-23	Date	24-01-23

Status **Approved (Level 1)**

Scale **NTS** Sheet size **A1**

DRG. NO. **9.2-A452-066-050** Rev. **A**

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13/06/2023 – Further email to objection

I write with reference to my email of the 23rd February 2023.

Please could you confirm that this response satisfactorily addresses your objections to the scheme. We can also confirm that a controlled crossing across the southern arm of Queensway roundabout has now been agreed and this will form part of the final scheme.

Your confirmation in writing would be appreciated. If you do not respond within 2 weeks form receipt of this email, then we shall proceed on the basis that you do not wish to maintain your objection to the scheme.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please call should you wish to discuss in person.

Received Friday 17/02/2023

I would like to register my objection to the proposed 'Highway Improvement Scheme' at Europa Way on the following grounds:

- The notice states that the scheme will 'promote and incentivise walking and cycling'. What evidence do you have to back up that claim? Have walking and cycling audits been completed as part of the design process? What consideration has been made for walking distances and how these may be accessible to vulnerable users? Have you spoken to any user groups about what would make their experiences better? Have you considered what infrastructure could be delivered that would enable drivers to switch from their vehicles?
- No additional meaningful cycling provision has been included, with cyclists being required to share footways with pedestrians and navigate tight multi-stage crossings. It is an insult to call this a cycling scheme. With all the carriageway widening, why is there no proposed widening to any of the cycling routes, in particular the missing link between Europa Way and the retail park on Tachbrook Park Drive?
- Walking routes have been provided only where they fit into the junction signalisation plan and deviate significantly from desire lines. Multi-stage crossings prioritise car throughput over pedestrian convenience. Only two new signalised crossings are being provided
- A key pedestrian desire line has no crossings provided. This is across Europa Way from the new housing estate to the retail park. Efforts are ongoing to deliver a pedestrian link into the retail park and this is a missed opportunity to deliver a direct and attractive route that cuts hundreds of metres off the current walking route. I understand that Cllr Chilvers has already forwarded my sketch.
- Once this scheme is delivered, how do you intend to deal with the induced traffic here and elsewhere. At the moment, many people are put off driving to the retail park at peak times at the weekend because of the traffic. Once this scheme is delivered and this particular capacity constraint is removed, how will you deal with the knock-on impacts along Princes Drive, Old Warwick Road, Myton Road, etc. How many more millions of pounds must be spent before we accept that building more road capacity only leads to more traffic?
- With the increased physical space available for cars to queue in, what calculations have been carried out to measure the increased concentration of noise and air pollution? Undoubtedly the 'capacity' increase will be filled with vehicles sooner rather than later.

I appreciate that this scheme is tied up in the significant development of housing to the south of Leamington and was probably conceived in a different time of thinking. I am hopeful that a very different approach will be taken alongside the next round of Local Plan infrastructure.

It remains frustrating, however, that for now we must live with the fallout of an infrastructure upgrade programme that is simply a scaling up of the status quo. The scheme is a direct enabler of more people driving in and out of our town centre - something that parallel projects (Leamington Mini-Holland, Bath Street) are seeking to undo. Millions of pounds are being spent on competing objectives with no clear objective because of flawed transport modelling, ineffective planning policy and siloed thinking.

I hope that my comments can go some way to improving the proposed scheme even if it is too late to seek a fundamental change of direction. If not I hope that they give you the support you need to be bolder in future schemes - to seek truly transformational changes that deliver true walking and cycling improvements.

Received 14/06/23

For completeness, here's the amendments I was referring to. As an aside I note that all the plans presented by PBA didn't show a single pedestrian crossing. Hope that gets fixed before they get built out!

[W 20 1642-TECHNICAL NOTES - TRIGGER POINTS FOR HIGHWAY WORKS-1386248 \(002\).pdf](#)

file:///C:/Users/DMal4/OneDrive%20-%20Warwickshire%20County%20Council/Desktop/W_20_1642-WCC_Highways-1414917.pdf

Received 13/06/2023

I'm glad to hear the crossing of the southern arm has been added although I'm not sure this addresses my fundamental frustration that the council seems infinitely better at delivering highway capacity schemes than any form of sustainable or active travel project. You mentioned in your initial response that there needs to be a balance in investment, whilst citing examples like Bath Street. I'm not aware of any progress on the Bath St scheme. Certainly nothing has been put into the public domain.

There is no doubt in my mind that the works will act to encourage greater car dependency with some minor concessions to try and appease vulnerable road users.

In regard to the upgrades being necessary to deliver the housing, I understand WCC has significantly weakened its position with the developers by agreeing to have a watching brief on other upgrade projects that they would have presumably funded. You can do this because traffic is not a fixed demand. It responds to the infrastructure provided.

Whilst appreciating the limited scope of the consultation at this stage I'm not overly inclined to formally remove my objection. Presumably if I don't then it ends up with the portfolio holder for final decision. I think it's important that decision makers are aware of push back otherwise nothing is going to change.

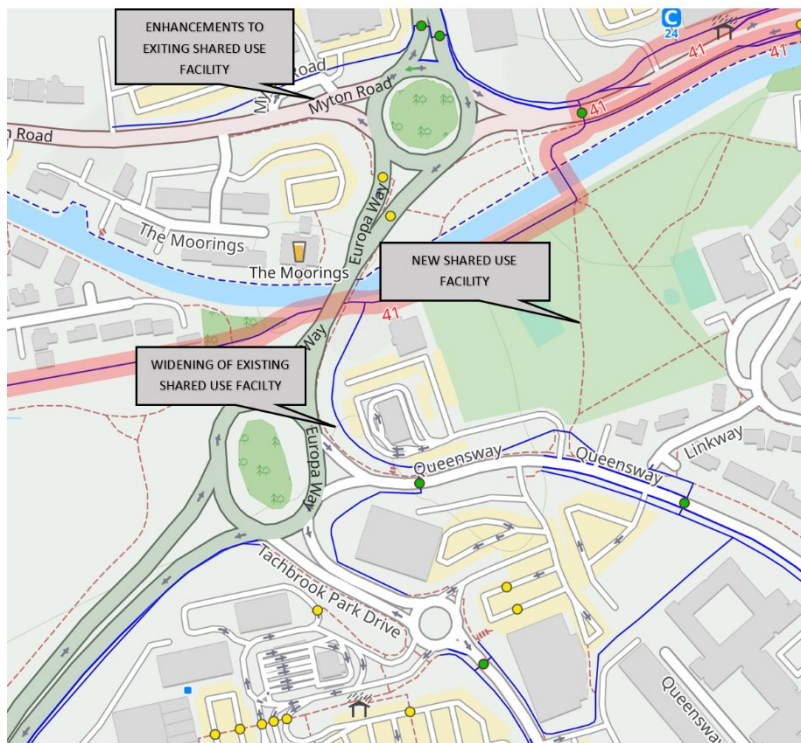
23/02/2023 - response to objection email dated 17/02/2023

Firstly, many thanks for taking the time to respond to the consultation and the detailed and considered approach you have taken. I shall attempt to address each of your points in turn.

Please note this consultation was specific to the signalisation of the two roundabouts and the introduction of pedestrian/cycle crossings on Tachbrook Park Drive and Myton Road only. Further, engagement is planned on the wider scheme which will provide more details on other elements and benefits the improvement works aim to deliver. Many of these we are still developing, but we're happy to share these with you now.

The improvement scheme builds on existing provision for cycling and walking which have been established through several stages of highways development along the Europa Way corridor by addressing areas where barriers to cycling and walking could be found. This includes the provision of Toucan crossings across Tachbrook Park Drive, and Myton Road which if utilised appropriately will improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists alike. We are also widening a short section of footway along the southern side of Tachbrook Park Drive to a footway/cycleway use facility.

What is not presently shown on this engagement plan, as these are still very much in the design and development stage, are the upgrade of the diagonal footpath across Fords Fields; the widening of the existing footway/cycleway facility which runs parallel to McDonalds restaurant; and finally improvements to the existing footway/cycleway on the northern side of Myton Road. I have illustrated these for clarity in the below image:



A Walking Cycling and Horse Riding Assessment (WCHAR) has been carried out and we have also technically reviewed the provisions for cyclists against the Department for Transport's guidance LTN 1/20 "Cycle Infrastructure", which we are broadly compliant with. A Road Safety Audit has also been carried out and we are in the process of responding to the issues and comments raised within this report.

With respect to your comment on walking distances and how these may be accessible to vulnerable road users, then to a point we are limited by land availability and site constraints. That said, I do not believe that following the implementation of the works proposed here that pedestrian routes to key amenities and facilities are unduly onerous or indirect. I'm aware Cllr Chilvers has requested officers to look into additional pedestrian provision off Europa Way and towards Leamington Shopping Park, and the viability and deliverability of this request is currently under consideration. In time we shall be consulting with wider users groups once the final plans for the scheme have been developed.

We are of the view that meaningful cycling links and provisions have been provided previously and as part of the proposals being promoted here and a consistent approach to the type of provision provided has been maintained. There are strong connected links that albeit are shared still provide a level of provision which meets the demands of all users. Footways have been integrated into the signalisation to allow for controlled pedestrian movements to be provided as part of the operational aspects of the signals to allow greater flexibility in allowing safer more frequent pedestrian movements whilst still allowing traffic to flow. We are of the view that, for the most part, suitable provision has been provided where practicable and viable to do so.

We are looking at the provision of an additional dedicated crossing across Europa Way south of Queensway roundabout. There are however existing design constraints and potential operational impacts at the roundabout which need to be understood and resolved before this can be agreed.

The scheme was formed from a strategic traffic model that can be adapted to predict the impacts that highway changes may have upon the network in future years in respect of queues and journey times and additionally how traffic might be displaced across the network as a result of such changes. The Authority is satisfied that the predicted changes in traffic behaviour offer the best options in terms of delivering housing growth and realising the potential for economic growth and job creation in the area.

Warwickshire County Council is very much committed to moving away from the car based system which has shaped our towns and infrastructure over recent years, towards schemes that encourage cycling and walking being considered as a viable alternative to single occupancy car journeys. Bath Street is a good indicator as to the direction of travel. As I'm sure you will appreciate we equally need to ensure that the movement and vitality and growth of our towns are equally not compromised and for this reason, a balanced and considered approach needs to be adopted.

One of the threats to poor air quality is slow or idling traffic over prolonged periods. The scheme seeks to mitigate this very risk. In terms of calculations, then this would have been addressed in the planning applications submitted for the developments to the west of Europa Way and suitable mitigation applied to reduce noise pollution for those most likely to be affected. The County Council is committed to improving air quality and fully recognise how Active Travel can play a key role in this, and the additional health and well-being benefits which also underpin those who do change their travel behaviours.

The consultation relates to the signalisation of the two roundabouts and provision of two controlled crossings. For our benefit please could you confirm that your objection relates to these facilities and associated infrastructure, and still remains following our response to your observations.

I trust this answers your concerns and provides clarity in other areas. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, then please do not hesitate in contacting me.

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WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

PROPOSED TOUCAN CROSSING – MYTON ROAD near THE MOORINGS, WARWICK
PROPOSED SIGNALISED ROUNDABOUT – A452 EUROPA WAY / MYTON ROAD, WARWICK
PROPOSED SIGNALISED ROUNDABOUT – A452 EUROPA WAY / QUEENSWAY, WARWICK

Warwickshire County Council hereby gives notice of its intention to install a Toucan crossing on Myton Road near The Moorings and signalise the roundabouts at:- (i) A452 Europa Way / Myton Road, and (ii) A452 Europa Way / Queensway, which will incorporate pedestrian and cycling facilities as part of a highways improvement scheme to promote and incentivise walking and cycling.

A copy of this notice and a plan showing the location of the proposals can be inspected at Warwick District Council, Riverside House, Milverton Hill, Leamington Spa, CV32 5HZ and Warwickshire Direct in Shire Hall, Market Place, Warwick CV34 4RL during opening hours.

The plan is also available to view on our website www.warwickshire.gov.uk/trafficsignals or please use the contact details below to request a copy.

Any enquiries relating to the proposals may be made to Simon Prescott, Engineering Design Services, Warwickshire County Council (telephone number 01926 412784). Any objections or representations to the proposals, which must be in writing and specify on the grounds on which they are made, should be addressed to Simon Prescott, Engineering Design Services, Environmental Services, Communities Directorate, PO Box 43, Shire Hall, Warwick, CV34 4RL or sent by email to europaway@warwickshire.gov.uk (Objections, representations, and the name of the objector or person making a representation, will normally be treated as public information and may be published. For further information on how Warwickshire County Council processes personal data please refer to the Customer Privacy Notice which is available at <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/privacy>). Objections and representations must be sent so as to be received by 14 March 2023.

The Council regrets any inconvenience that may be caused due to the works.

S Tompkins
Assistant Director
Environmental Services

Shire Hall, Warwick
9th February 2023

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