

FORMER TRANSPORT USERS' FORUM/TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE
3 NOVEMBER 2016

4 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

1. Councillor Hopper to ask the Chair:

The Warren/St Peter's Hill Junction

Bearing in mind the level of local concern raised about the safety of the junction of The Warren and St Peter's Hill following the recent removal of the mirror, which I have documentary evidence has been in place since at least 1971, will Transport Officers agree to visit the site with me to review the junction in person and to work to ensure that the junction retains its enviable safety record ?

RESPONSE by Chair of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee

Historically, traffic mirrors on the public highway have strictly been controlled by the Department for Transport (DfT). The Council has always had to demonstrate that it has considered all possible options/traffic management measures at a junction first, before the DfT would even consider looking at any application for a mirror.

As far as this specific mirror is concerned, although it is believed to have been in-situ for quite some time, we, and the DfT have no evidence that formal approval has ever been given for this location.

Whilst mirrors now feature within the revised Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions the rules on how to use the new legislative powers are still to follow from the DfT. This is expected early in the new year and until this is done we can only use what existed before and a mirror in this location does not meet legislative requirements. We cannot replace something that was illegal before. Officers have already carried out an assessment of the junction and found that it does not even qualify for a STOP sign. This is one of the requirements for a mirror.

I understand that Councillor Hopper has already had a telephone briefing with officers and I am sure that they will be happy to meet with him.

2. Councillor Hopper to ask the Chair:

Theft of Bicycles from Reading Station

Can the Lead member please update me on the works being undertaken to stop bicycles from being stolen from racks at Reading Station, by the simple method of unbolting the stand to which people are encouraged to use to lock their bikes to ?

RESPONSE by Chair of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee

The Council contacted the manufacturer of the cycle racks at the Reading Station Northern Interchange following the report of a theft at the site and concerns about their structure.

The company has now acknowledged that security improvements will be made to the racks and work is being carried out in the early part of next week.

The manufacturer says there have been no other similar concerns raised at any of its other installations in the country but has assured us the promised improvements will ensure a robust and secure facility for cycles to be stored.

Council officers will be on site with the company's representatives to make sure they are satisfied the work carried out will prevent any repeat of further incidents of this nature.