

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

**1(A) QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

1. Helen Perkins to ask the Chair:  
**Highmoor Road/Albert Road Junction**

Could the Lead Member please update us on progress towards improving the junction at Highmoor Rd / Albert Rd, following the approval of Cllr Ed Hopper's request for speed calming measures for both Highmoor and Albert Road to be investigated and a deliverable scheme, including improved STOP or Junction Ahead signage to be presented at the next Sub Committee meeting in 2017 ?

**RESPONSE** by Chair of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee

Traffic speed data has been collected very recently on Albert Road and this is still to be analysed. The other works referred to are part of changes that are likely to be delivered as a result of a decision to increase the double yellow lines in Highmoor Road. The intention is to increase the 'dragons teeth' marking in Highmoor Road and look to add these to Albert Road on the northbound approach. Any further signing will be considered as a part of this process and further discussions with CADRA and HARC will then follow. A report to consider traffic calming on Albert Road will be presented to either January or March meetings of the Sub-committee once all the facts have been determined.

2. Helen Perkins to ask the Chair:

**Highmoor Road/Albert Road Junction**

HARC and many local residents support the proposals for double yellow lines at the junction of Highmoor/Albert Road but request they be limited to just 50m instead of 100m, which we understand will be considered by this Sub Committee later today or at the next meeting. Could the Lead member please give us an indicative time frame within which lines will be painted, if they are given the go ahead by this Sub Committee ?

**RESPONSE** by Chair of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee

The extension to the double yellow lines has been promoted to improve the visibility of the junction as a driver approaches from the west. This will ensure all drivers, particularly those not familiar with the area, that they are approaching the junction. The professional view by experienced officers is to extend the double yellow lines back to Buxton Avenue. The restriction has already been advertised and does feature in the agenda (Item 6 RESULTS OF STATUTORY CONSULTATIONS) in the formal part of this meeting. It is for the Sub-committee to consider the objections and the recommendations made by the professional officers.

It is expected that any changes will be implemented as soon as possible although this may take a few weeks as the traffic regulation order behind the waiting restriction will need to be sealed.

3. Pam Reynolds to ask the Chair:

**The Warren/St Peter's Hill Junction**

For many years the mirror at the junction of The Warren and St Peter's Hill has been cleaned and replaced by Reading Borough Council when required with no apparent issue. I would like to know why a simple, cheap, non-invasive solution to a traffic issue has now been removed ?

**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.