

Other Issues Raised by Residents

1. *Any money would be better spent providing a layby to accommodate on-street parking outside the shops which adds to congestion when the household waste site is open.*

Officer response

Funding allocated to this scheme would not be used for any proposals except cycling improvements and public money is generally not used to benefit parking outside private commercial premises. As the household waste site is only open part of the time, remedial measures to reduce congestion are not considered appropriate.

2. *A cycle link could be provided from Muirfield Way through the park area.*

Officer response

The park is managed by LCCS, but the footpath is adopted highway, so some further investigation and consultation would be required, but a cycle link could provide a short cut to around 90 properties. If the current proposals are approved, we will investigate this matter further.

3. *Knapton Lane would benefit from a small section of 20mph zone with a speed table near its junction with Beckfield Lane to increase safety at this point.*

Officer response

Although any reduction in vehicle speed is welcome, it is assumed that vehicles on the approach to the junction are already slowing down, so any measures would have limited effect on inbound traffic.

4. *Is the bus shelter near Fellbrook Avenue needed?*

Officer response

Two bus services use this bus stop, one is hourly, and the other is less frequent. However, it is not unusual for new routes to start or for the frequency of existing services to change. Therefore, removing a shelter would be to the detriment of existing and future passengers and is not considered appropriate in this instance.

5. *The cycle track access points are not needed because cyclist could enter the cycle track using existing vehicular driveways.*

Officer response

A dedicated cycle track access point is proposed because a cyclist using a vehicular access could be faced with an oncoming vehicle.

6. *Removing the verges will cause drainage problems.*

Officer response

Drainage requirements would be considered carefully as part of the detailed design.

7. *Construction could cause damage to the trees.*

Officer response

We work closely with our arboricultural officer throughout the construction of all schemes to minimise the potential for any damage to the trees, and follow national guidance BS5837:2005 'Trees in relation to construction', and National Joint Utilities Guidelines (NJUG) 4.2.

8. *The rumble effect of warning paving is often avoided by people with pushchairs as it is unpleasant for the child occupant. In addition, on the cyclist side it can become slippery when wet or icy.*

Officer response

Ladder pattern warning paving is installed to assist people with visual impairments and allow them to identify which side of a footway / cycle track is for pedestrians. Its installation is in line with national guidance so cannot be a different design or omitted.

9. *The eastern footway should be improved as well for the benefit of pedestrians.*

Officer response

The footway maintenance programme is decided annually following a survey of every footway in the council area which identifies the areas in most need of treatment. This year, Beckfield Lane did not fall into this category so is not in the 2009/10 programme. However, regular inspections would also pick up any defects in need of repair which would be treated separately.