

OFFICER IN CONSULTATION MEETING - FRIDAY 26th APRIL 2013.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE A59 BROUGHBRIDGE ROAD / OUSEACRES JUNCTION

Update to the previous OIC Report and Decision.

Background.

Proposals for the improvements to the A59 Broughbridge Road / Ouseacres junction were first presented to an Officer in Consultation (OIC) meeting on 21st August 2012.

The proposals as shown in **PLAN 1** were those presented to residents at consultation stage. **PLAN 2** showed a revised layout after consideration of comments received, including those from a Stage 2 Road Safety Audit. Both options were presented at the OIC meeting, with Officers recommending approval of the **PLAN 2** proposals.

It was considered by the Director and Cabinet Member (Councillor Merrett) that it would be desirable that cyclists should be given priority over traffic when crossing the mouth of Ouseacres. Officers were therefore asked to reconsider the proposals and present them to a subsequent OIC meeting.

A revised layout giving cyclists priority was developed and was presented at an update meeting on 11th September 2012.

Discussions at the update meeting centred on safety concerns and it was agreed that the layout shown in Annex F of the September update (together with the alterations listed on the decision sheet) should be implemented on a trial basis with close monitoring.

PLAN 3 illustrates the approved Annex F layout with the agreed alterations.

Update on current progress.

The proposals are currently being implemented concurrent with the A59 Bus Corridor scheme. Letters were sent to residents on 18th March advising them that works at the junction were due to commence during

the week commencing 25th March. Copies of the approved layout were included within the letter.

The plan differed to that which residents were consulted on, and telephone queries from four residents were received during the week commencing 18th March. One resident, Mrs. Dawson, expressed serious concerns about the proposed layout and in particular the proposed cycle/pedestrian priority measures. Mrs. Dawson raised and discussed her concerns with Councillor Merrett.

In response, Councillor Merrett requested a meeting with key officers to review the proposals and to discuss possible amendments. This meeting was held on 26th March.

Through these discussions it was concluded that the proposal to give cyclists priority over traffic did carry a high risk of road safety problems with particular concern over drivers turning left off Boroughbridge Road not having sufficient time and space to give way for cyclists crossing Ouseacres. It was therefore agreed that cyclists should be required to give way to traffic on Ouseacres and that Officers should seek Director approval for the previous OIC decision to be revised.

It was also acknowledged that, because construction has already commenced, the speed table and kerb radius alterations, which remained appropriate, should be completed and that the road markings and signs not be introduced until a decision is given, so as not to delay the contractor.

The speed table is now constructed and road surfacing is programmed commencing from 13th May. Road markings are to be provided after completion of the road surfacing work.

Officer Recommendation.

Given the renewed concerns about allowing priority to cyclists and pedestrians to cross Ouseacres at the raised speed table and requiring vehicles to give way in such close proximity to the main junction, Officers

recommend that changes be made to the layout shown on **Plan 3** such that:

1. A give way marking is provided on the cycle path at its position where it meets the speed table.
2. The green surfacing and cycle symbols on the speed table (denoting cycle priority) be omitted.
3. The vehicle give way markings either side of the speed table are removed.
4. The associated “give way” and “cycle route ahead” signs be omitted.

These changes to give motorists priority and require cyclists to give way prior to crossing Ouseacres, thereby making the arrangement safer and more easily understood. The revised arrangement is indicated on **PLAN 4**.

Approval is sought from the Director to revise the previous decision (25th September 2012) and to authorise the suggested minor changes to the proposals (i.e. to implement the layout shown in **PLAN 4**).

Background papers.

- OIC Report of 21st August 2012
- OIC Update of 11th September 2012
- OIC Decision of 25th September 2012