

Notes from Bilford Road Action Group Meeting: 26th May 2015.

Apologies: Jason Marshall

Clare Marchant (Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council)

Clare Marchant and Jon Fraser (Highways Manager) attended our meeting following an invitation for the action group. The following cover the main issues that were discussed with Clare and Jon:

Speed will not trigger action; neither will accidents. Therefore, what would? What is a possible solution? It is difficult to find one. As part of the swimming pool development there will be some changes to the road layout that may help.

The main issue is the combination of speed and volume of traffic. Bilford Road is often used as a cut-through. So, although speed alone is not sufficient for action, speed and volume together are. The swimming pool is likely to increase traffic and as a pedestrian it is already difficult to cross.

Action: We should pick the best spots on Bilford Road for traffic counters/speed assessors. Two spots were chosen at the end of the meeting. One was to the west of the canal bridge by the right turn warning sign. The other one was by The Pines near the left bend warning sign. These locations were passed to Jon Fraser by Matthew Jenkins after the meeting.

Action: Clare Marchant to investigate the forecast for increased traffic volumes after the swimming pool is built.

We then discussed what the solution would be even if we can show that speed and volume are a problem. Finding a crossing location is difficult. What other options are there? Would more solid white lines help? Could narrowing the road, say by adding a cycle lane, be feasible?

A near miss log was raised as a good idea, particularly for the local schools. **Action: Matthew to raise this with schools.**

It was agreed that we need to build a business case for improvements to Bilford Road, firstly based on traffic volume and speed and secondly based on wider issues such as social isolation, children walking to school, etc.

Other Issues and actions from previous meeting

The white van parked by the bus stop to the east of the canal bridge is still causing a problem. PC Slaymaker has spoken to the owner explaining the concern, but can take no further action since the van is parked legally. **Action: Matthew Jenkins to see if yellow lines by the bus stop are possible.**

Parking on the canal bridge was discussed. Matthew raised this issue with Highways and with the local anglers association. Fishing starts on 16th June. **Action: We should all keep an eye on whether anglers continue to park on the bridge. Send pictures to Matthew Jenkins with date and time if any spotted.**

Matthew raised with Highways the concern that the loss of the hatching on the canal bridge was a danger to pedestrians. Highways agreed to reinstate the hatching. Note: This has now been done.