

Notes from Bilford Road Action Group Meeting: 6th October 2015.

Apologies: Bob Chambers

Speed data

We discussed the speed data gathered during the 10th to 17th July on Bilford Road in two locations near to the Leisure Centre. With an average speed slightly above 30mph there are clearly a significant proportion of drivers exceeding the speed limit. 15% of vehicles were going ~35mph or faster. Perhaps another 15% were going between 30mph and 35mph. By also looking at the volume data, which was 14,782 vehicles in 24 hours, the combination of speed and traffic frequency makes it difficult for people to safely cross the road.

For example, at peak times there are around 1,200 cars per hour travelling on this stretch of road (~600 each way). This works out at roughly one car every 3 seconds!

Although the speed data alone may not be sufficient to prompt action from the County Council, when combined with the volume data it was felt that this should be very persuasive.

Possible plans for Perdiswell Access as part of Swimming Pool Development

We looked at possible plans for the redesign of the road access to Perdiswell Leisure Centre. A number of serious concerns were raised.

1. We recommend that the junction is a roundabout rather than a right filter. This will have the benefit of both slowing down the traffic and preventing tailbacks due to the nearby recycling centre.
2. We recommend moving the two new bus stops onto the leisure centre. The proposed location could cause restrictions to traffic. Further, it could be dangerous for drivers and pedestrians, particularly for vehicles coming over the canal bridge.

Roundabout Advantages:

1. A roundabout could provide two refuge crossing points.
2. Slows traffic

Another suggestion was that if there was a roundabout it would make sense to change the recycling centre access to be off this roundabout. It may help solve the problem of access to the recycling centre, although there were concerns that due to the centre being run by a private company it may be difficult to progress this idea.

Reasons to move Bus Stops

1. Children may be tempted to cross road by bus stop rather than walk to refuge.
2. Danger of cars going into rear of parked bus or trying to overtake it dangerously.
3. Improved traffic flow.
4. Cheaper to have just one bus stop at leisure centre rather than two on Bilford Road.

It would be a good idea to involve the ne not-for-profit company who will be managing the leisure centre and swimming pool.

Action: Matt to investigate the status of these proposals and how we can influence them.

Action: Jason to check with Planning to confirm whether these proposals are part of the planning process.

Action: Matt to ask for the Risk Assessment, if there is one, for the proposed new junction and ask whether they have considered all the advantages and disadvantages of different options.

Schools Near Miss Log

The idea of a near miss log was raised at the previous meeting and Matt suggested this to the two schools in the area. It would be a good idea to promote the existence of any such log to ensure that incidents are actually reported.

Action: Matt to suggest to schools that the log can be easily accessed on school websites and maybe try leafleting parents when they drop off/pick up their children.

Other Issues & Actions from Previous Meeting

The black 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.

Parking on the canal bridge was discussed as we have pictures of vehicles parked on the canal bridge, which causes safety problems. Matt has forwarded these to the Anglers Association, but has had no response. **Action: Matt to raise this issue again with Anglers, but also with Highways to use as evidence for the need for double yellow lines on the bridge.**

The question was asked as to whether there was any news regarding the Football Club development at Perdiswell? There has been no information that anyone was aware of, but there are certainly hurdles that the Supporters' Trust will have to cross. We'll continue to keep a close eye on developments.