

## Notes from Bilford Road Action Group Meeting. 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

Matthew Jenkins went through the notes from the previous meeting, in particular summarising the responses that Jon Fraser gave to some of the ideas put forward by residents to make the road safer.

There was a discussion about improving the Keep Clear signs at the Drovers Way junction and the Bilford/Astwood Road junction. It was suggested that yellow box-hashing would be better as currently some car drivers ignore the Keep Clear signs. Gareth Jones raised the point that Traffic Management said that this was not possible as it did not meet their criteria. **Action: MJ to raise this as an option and to find out whether it fails to meet the criteria, and if so what the criteria is.**

The issue of the swimming pool planned for Perdiswell was discussed, following a display of the plans recently. Of particular concern was the proposed road layout to access Perdiswell from Bilford Road. There was also concern about the likely increase in traffic and how would this impact on a junction that already has issues when the recycling centre is busy. We agreed that our group has a say in how this junction is designed to ensure that it is suitable for both drivers and pedestrians.

Two new suggestions were then discussed; firstly, the possibility of adding a crossing just to the south of the shop. It would need to be near the shop to ensure people used it. There appeared to be no place on the straight part of Bilford Road for a crossing due to driveways. The question was raised as to whether Highways can look at this to examine what could be done to the layout of the road to make it feasible. **Action: MJ to raise this with Highways.**

A problem raised by Gareth to this suggestion would be cost, with pelican crossings costing over £100,000 and thus too costly. Therefore, we will probably only be able to get have cheaper options. Speed checks have been undertaken in various stretches of Bilford Road, all of which showed similar speeds. A better location for a crossing and one that could do with having a speed check is on Astwood Road by the last bungalow prior to the shop.

The other idea was to change the layout of the Astwood/Bilford Road to make it into a clearer T-junction. By doing this, it would force drivers to slow down when approaching and turning at this junction. **Action: MJ to ask about the feasibility of this idea.**

The point was raised that we could do with a list of our ideas that we can ask Highways to assess what we can and can't do.

Another idea that was raised was to have additional access from the south side of the canal bridge to the towpath. This idea has been raised with the Canal & River Trust and has received a favourable response. **Action: MJ to talk to Tom Comerford.**

The possibility of a refuge on the canal bridge was raised again. MJ has investigated this previously, but has not proceeded due to the potential changes in the area with the new swimming pool development.

A white van that is frequently parked outside 163 Bilford Road is causing visibility problems, especially for bus users who are trying to cross the road. **Action: MJ to speak to resident to see if it can be moved.**

The change in the white central line on the canal bridge is causing problems for pedestrians and drivers coming out of Kingston Avenue. **Action: MJ to request that it be moved or hashing added in the middle.**

Sometime people park on the canal bridge, which can cause visibility problems. It was suggested that double yellow lines would stop this. **Action: MJ to ask Highways.**

It was suggested that Gareth should put together a summary of previous attempts at crossings and safety improvements in this area. **Action: GJ to send MJ a summary of previous road safety measures that can then be distributed to the Action Group.**

Matthew was hoping to arrange a meeting with Clare Marchant, the Chief Executive of WCC, at which one or two members of the group could also attend to express their concerns. **Action: MJ to arrange a meeting with the Chief Executive of Worcestershire County Council and to distribute possible dates to allow members of the Action Group to attend.**