# **Individual Decision**



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The attached report will be taken as an Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

# Wednesday 15 November 2017

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## **Individual Executive Member Decision**

## **A4 Cycle Improvements - Newbury to Thatcham**

Committee considering

report:

Individual Executive Member Decision

Date ID to be signed: 15 November 2017

Portfolio Member: Councillor Jeanette Clifford

Forward Plan Ref: ID3374

#### 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To summarise the responses received to the consultation on proposed improvements to cycle facilities along the A4 between Newbury and Thatcham (National Cycle Network Route 422) and make a recommendation as to how to proceed with the project.

#### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that:
  - (1) The proposals advertised in the recent consultation are implemented, albeit with a number of minor amendments to address comments made by respondents;
  - (2) Further investigation is carried out in respect of the speed limit on the A4 and the need for further pedestrian crossing facilities;
  - (3) Traffic Regulation Orders required as part of the proposals are advertised in a separate statutory consultation, with any objections received being referred to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport in a further Individual Decision.

#### 3. Implications

3.1 **Financial:** If implemented, the measures recommended will cost

approximately £305,000 and be funded from the Capital Programme using funds already received from the Thames

Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

3.2 **Policy:** None

3.3 **Personnel:** None

3.4 **Legal:** If implemented, the project will require new Traffic

Regulation Orders to be advertised in a separate statutory

consultation process.

3.5 **Risk Management:** If implemented, the project will be managed in accordance

with the Transport and Countryside Service's approach to

risk management.

3.6 **Property:** To maximise the benefit of the proposals, some small strips

of land will need to be purchased from properties fronting the A4 London Road. The land is being independently valued and informal negotiations have begun with the

affected landowners.

3.7 **Other:** None

#### 4. Consultation Responses

#### Members:

**Leader of Council:** Councillor Graham Jones supports the recommendations of

the report.

Overview & Scrutiny

Management Commission Chairman:

Councillor Emma Webster has no objections to the scheme.

Ward Members: Councillor Dennis Benneyworth (Victoria ward) supports the

recommendations of the report.

Councillor James Frederickson (Victoria ward) declined to

comment.

Councillor Steve Ardagh-Walter (Thatcham West ward) did not

comment.

Councillor Nick Goodes (Thatcham West ward) did not

comment.

Councillor Jeff Beck (Clay Hill ward) supports the

recommendations of the report.

Councillor Dave Goff (Clay Hill ward) supports the

recommendations of the report.

**Opposition** Councillor Lee Dillon did not comment (Councillor Billy

**Spokesperson:** Drummond is currently unavailable).

**Local Stakeholders:** Consulted in October 2017 via leaflet drop and online

consultation. See Appendix C for a summary of the

responses.

Officers Consulted: Mark Edwards, Jon Winstanley, Mark Cole, Glyn Davis, Peter

Walker.

Trade Union: Not applicable

#### 5. Other options considered

5.1 Alternative east-west routes were investigated along the canal towpath, Turnpike Road/Kiln Road and Hambridge Road (B3421). A fully segregated facility adjacent to the A4 was also considered.

#### Kennet & Avon Canal Towpath:

5.2 The proposed NCN422 is a direct commuter route and will provide an express route for cyclists travelling up to 15mph. To provide and maintain an equivalent facility on the towpath would not be feasible. Separately the Canal & River Trust (CRT) have received funds to upgrade the towpath east of Newbury, from Bull's Lock to Victoria Park. This will be a welcome upgrade for recreational cycling but does not solve the problem of cyclists and pedestrians living and working close to the A4 needing safe and direct routes to and from work.

#### Turnpike Road and Kiln Road:

5.3 Similarly if routed to the north, through Turnpike / Kiln Road, Shaw, the proposal is not on the desire line for the majority of commuter routes, and would take most cyclists away from employment centres and local destinations.

#### <u>Hambridge Road:</u>

5.4 Consideration was given to how the B3421 Hambridge Road could be improved, as it runs parallel to the A4 London Road. However the carriageway is simply not wide enough and any upgrades would involve extensive land acquisition either side of the road, involving too many landowners for it to be a plausible option. Further to the south, the new route through the racecourse is an option, but again is indirect and away from the majority of housing so would not serve as a direct commuter route.

#### The A4

5.5 A fully segregated path on the south side of the A4 was also considered. However due to limited space on and off the carriageway, unless large areas of land were purchased, then creation of such a track would not be possible, and it would inevitably be disjointed where existing pinch points and/or land issues couldn't be resolved. Furthermore the budget is insufficient to fund extensive kerb realignment and construction of an off-road route for the entire distance and initial discussions with cyclists and local cycling groups indicated a preference for on-carriageway solutions.

#### 6. Introduction/Background

- 6.1 Working with other unitary authorities in Berkshire, West Berkshire Council successfully submitted a bid for funding to the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership to improve cycling facilities along the Thames Valley corridor between Newbury and Windsor, with a particular focus on promoting cycling for journeys to work. £1.1m has been allocated to West Berkshire Council to deliver its part of the project. It is intended for the route to be of a suitable standard for inclusion in the Sustrans national network of cycle routes. Sustrans is an organisation which promotes cycling and works with local authorities to designate cycling routes across the UK; this route will be known as "NCN422".
- 6.2 The section of the A4 between Newbury and Thatcham is the first phase of West Berkshire's part of the route and further work will be done between Thatcham and Reading as the project progresses.
- 6.3 The A4 (known locally as London Road and Benham Hill) is the main route between Newbury and Thatcham. It is single carriageway for the most part but there are short sections at busy junctions where the road widens to six lanes to reduce congestion through traffic signals.
- There are a number of existing cycle facilities on the A4 between Newbury and Thatcham, in the form of off-carriageway cycleways and "toucan" crossing facilities at the A4/Faraday Road/Newport Road junction. However the cycleways are discontinuous and include points of potential conflict between cycles and motor traffic (for example where the cycleways cross private driveways) and between cycles and pedestrians (for example at bus stops and where there is insufficient width for pedestrians and cyclists to share the available space).
- 6.5 Surveys have shown that currently many cyclists use the footway instead of the carriageway, even when not formally designated for use by cyclists, and can come into conflict with pedestrians or cars exiting driveways. The existing footway is particularly narrow in parts (less than 1.4 metres), making it difficult for pushchair and wheelchair users to use, or for two people to comfortably walk side-by-side, even without promoting them for use by cyclists.
- 6.6 This project aims to improve facilities for cyclists of all levels of ability and confidence. Confident cyclists tend to prefer to ride on the carriageway at higher speeds, whereas less confident, occasional cyclists usually prefer not to mix with motor traffic and stay off the carriageway, particularly on busy roads such as the A4. It is therefore the intention to improve both on- and off-carriageway facilities as part of this project.
- 6.7 Whilst improving conditions for cyclists, the needs of all road users have to be balanced and the proposals have been developed so as not to have an unduly negative effect on vehicular congestion or worsen the experience of pedestrians. In some locations, therefore, it has not been possible to achieve fully continuous provision for cyclists either on- or off-carriageway because to have done so would have compromised safety for pedestrians or capacity for motor traffic as there was insufficient space to provide a facility for all road users.
- 6.8 The proposals are shown on a series of drawings in Appendix D and are summarised as follows:

- (1) Introduce 1.5 metre wide cycle lanes on the carriageway;
- (2) Remove, or reduce the width/length of central hatching & right hand turn lanes where appropriate;
- (3) Remove traffic island 'pinch points' where possible to create the space for the on-carriageway cycle lanes;
- (4) Widen existing footways to allow shared pedestrian/cycle use;
- (5) Widen some existing foot/cycleways and convert from segregated to shared use;
- (6) Improve pedestrian crossing facilities by widening central traffic islands;
- (7) Remove "street clutter" and relocate bus shelters, lamp columns and sign posts to make more space for users of the off-carriageway facilities;
- (8) Improve facilities at the major traffic signal junctions with Hambridge Road and Lower Way (as part of forthcoming refurbishment projects);
- (9) Localised repairs to carriageway, footway and cycleway surfaces.

#### 7. Supporting Information

- 7.1 In October 2017, households and businesses on and adjacent to the A4 were consulted on the potential improvements by way of a leaflet drop delivered to approximately 700 addresses (the leaflet is included in Appendix B). The proposals, including the detailed drawings, were also publicised on the consultation section of the Council's website.
- 7.2 Fifty five responses to the consultation were received. There were twenty three responses in favour of the proposals and twenty three against, with nine responses making comments not specifically stating either support or objection. The responses are summarised in Appendix C, together with Officer's comments.
- 7.3 There were a number of recurrent themes in the responses, summarised below:

#### Crossing Facilities:

7.4 One of the main areas of concern was regarding the loss of crossing points along the A4. For the most part residents were seeking clarification over which traffic islands were proposed to be removed, and objecting to any of the pedestrian islands being taken away. In recognition of the fact that the A4 has a high volume of traffic and is hard to cross during busy periods none of the pedestrian islands are to be removed. Instead the proposals make improvements to make it safer to cross. For example, the traffic island between Skyllings and Martingale Chase will remain and be upgraded to a pedestrian refuge of adequate width and with sufficient dropped kerb access. The pedestrian island west of Dorneywood Way will be widened so that it meets the minimum width requirement. The island on Benham Hill opposite Southdown Road will remain.

7.5 The only traffic islands that are proposed for removal are the two between the Swan Inn and the Newbury Business Park/B&Q roundabout, and the traffic islands outside the entrance to Tesco, none of which are designed for use by pedestrians crossing due to their size and/or location. Given the strength of opinion of respondents concern about safely crossing the A4 London Road further surveys and investigations could be carried out to assess the need for new controlled crossing facilities.

#### **Loss of Right Hand Turn Lanes:**

- 7.6 Another popular objection was to the loss of right hand turn facilities, or concern regarding turning lanes being reduced in width and/or length. There was some confusion over exactly which are proposed to be removed; only the entrances to the Swan Inn and service road access to Ham Marina and Newbury Manor Hotel would completely lose their right hand turn facility. Those directly affected will be 10 properties, a hotel, three businesses and those accessing the marina. It is considered that these do not have enough turning movements to bear any significant impact on peak congestion. Westbound vehicles turning right into the pub have the roundabout 200 metres away which is not far for vehicles to u-turn and come back to make a left turn.
- 7.7 Between Skyllings and Martingale Chase the turning lanes will be reduced in width to allow continuation of the westbound cycle lane. It should be noted that the lanes in their current state are less than 2 metres wide; vehicle tracking and observations on the ground indicate that they do not pose a safety risk. The proposed cycle lane is advisory so traffic can enter it if necessary to pass vehicles positioned in the middle of the road waiting to turn right. The cycle lane, marked with frequent cycle symbols painted on the road, will alert motorists to the possible presence of cyclists and therefore serve as a reminder to always check before making a manoeuvre to enter the cyclists' space.

#### Central Carriageway Hatching:

- 7.8 Similar to the above, residents expressed concern that the removal of hatching in the centre of the road on Benham Hill and London Road would prevent them from safely waiting in the middle of the road for a gap in traffic before turning right into their driveways. Vehicles approaching properties between the Hambridge Road and Lower Way junctions from Thatcham could, however, use Turnpike Road and Fir Tree Lane in order to make a left turn into the driveways. Vehicles approaching properties between the Lower Way junction and the Tull Way (garden centre) roundabout from Newbury could make a U-turn at the roundabout and turn left into the driveways. Drivers would be able to choose whether to wait in the road to turn right or to make the diversions and turn left, there is no proposal to formally restrict any turning movements.
- 7.9 The section between Hambridge Road and Lower Way was planned to change in any case in order to mitigate the extra traffic associated with the major residential development at Newbury Racecourse. This would have reduced the hatching in the centre of the carriageway to approximately 1.5 metres in width to enable provision of a third westbound lane dedicated for traffic turning left into Hambridge Road. This would not have been sufficient for a car to occupy, most cars are up to 1.8 metres wide. It is therefore considered that the 1.5 metres of road space is better utilised to provide an eastbound cycle lane on the northern side of the carriageway, with a

- double white line instead of a hatched area. There will be a larger number of cyclists that benefit from the continuation of the on-carriageway route eastbound than the number making right turns into/out of the private driveways.
- 7.10 The removal of central hatching elsewhere on the scheme will similarly provide better use of road space in enabling the cycle lanes to be installed and will serve to slow down traffic by removing the buffer zone in the middle of the road and narrowing the traffic lanes.

#### Speeding:

- 7.11 There were several comments regarding the suitability of the 40mph speed limit on the A4 and requests to reduce it to 30mph. There was also a perceived lack of police enforcement of the existing speed restrictions.
- 7.12 The setting of speed limits is the responsibility of the Traffic Management and Road Safety team, who periodically review speed limits in consultation with the Police and a panel of Councillors known as the Speed Limit Task Group. The Task Group makes recommendations to the Executive Councillor for Highways and Transport in respect of which speed limits should be amended.
- 7.13 The possibility of reducing the speed limit on the A4 in light of the introduction of the cycle facilities could be examined by the next meeting of the task group.

#### Segregation:

- 7.14 A lot of cyclists requested that physical separation is installed between vehicular and cycle traffic with a white line not being seen as a sufficient deterrent to vehicles encroaching on the cycle lanes. However there is not enough space to construct physical barriers on the road.
- 7.15 A few comments alluded to the example of the cycleway on Lower Way. To construct a similar bi-directional segregated path along the length of the A4 from Newbury to Thatcham would involve realigning kerblines and purchasing land and would be hugely disruptive to build and far beyond the project budget (refer also to paragraph 5.5).

#### Parking Restrictions:

7.16 The most common complaint was about parked cars blocking existing cycle infrastructure. Almost a fifth of respondents suggested that cycle lanes across West Berkshire are inadequate as they are often blocked by parked cars. The concern is that this will happen in the advisory cycle lanes proposed on the A4; especially as the carriageway is unprotected by parking restrictions. The majority of the A4 between Newbury and Thatcham is clear of parked vehicles but it would be possible to prohibit parking in locations where there is the potential for the new cycle lanes (whether on- or off-carriageway) to be obstructed. This would require a Traffic Regulation Order to be made and double yellow lines installed.

#### Cyclists don't make use of existing paths:

7.17 A frequent complaint in the feedback was that existing cycle paths are not being used by cyclists. Examples cited were Lower Way, Turnpike Road, Heath Lane and Tull Way. This may be due to the discontinuous nature of the current provision and

it is anticipated that by providing well designed, more continuous infrastructure use by cyclists will increase.

#### 8. Options for Consideration

8.1 In view of the consultation responses and the Officer comments in Appendix D, three distinct options have been identified:

#### Option 1:

8.2 Implement the proposals unaltered.

#### Option 2:

- 8.3 Implement the proposals, with the following amendments, which would address a number of comments raised in responses to the consultation:
  - (1) Install additional dropped kerbs westbound prior to the signalised junction with Faraday Road;
  - (2) Install additional dropped kerbs eastbound after the signalised junction with Rooke's Way (the hospital access) and before the incline on Benham Hill;
  - (3) Amend the radius of the kerbline at the junction with Dorneywood Way in order to reduce the speed of vehicles entering the side road;
  - (4) Relocate the westbound bus shelter between Hambridge Road and Dorneywood Way to reduce conflict between pedestrians and cyclists on the footway;
  - (5) Pending the result of the planning application and subsequent changes to the road layout outside the former Narrowboat Public House, consider either amending the north side kerbline to continue the cycle lane further eastbound towards the roundabout or making the footway shared use;
- 8.4 Carry out the following further investigations for possible future projects:
  - (1) Refer the issue of the speed limit on the A4 to the Speed Limit Task Group, with a view to reducing the speed limit to 30mph for the length of the scheme.
  - (2) Undertake a survey to determine the need for further controlled pedestrian crossing facilities between the Hambridge Road junction and the Tesco access.

#### Option 3:

8.5 Do not proceed with any of the improvements and return the funding to the Local Enterprise Partnership.

#### 9. Proposals

- 9.1 The consultation responses were split half in favour and half against the proposals. A lot of the negative responses queried the justification of the scheme, and cycling in general, rather than engaging with the detail. It is usually the case in consultations that respondents are more likely to be motivated to object to a proposal than support it. Furthermore those who would be expected to be in favour of the scheme cyclists travelling through the area on a regular basis are in this case a transient population that might not have been engaged by the letter drop / website consultation.
- 9.2 In light of this, and of the representations received, it is recommended that the Council proceeds with Option 2.

#### 10. Conclusion

- 10.1 By listening to the feedback and making the above amendments to the scheme we are confident that what is proposed is the best possible solution for improving cycling conditions on the A4 and therefore work towards the Council's aim to encourage sustainable modes of transport.
- 10.2 The delivery of Option 2 will require new Traffic Regulation Orders, to give effect to the proposed parking restrictions. Statutory consultations must therefore be held as part of a separate legal process, with any objections received being reported back to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport for Individual Decision.

Subject to Call-In:			
Yes: ✓ No: □			
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval			
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council			
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position			
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months			
Item is Urgent Key Decision			
Report is to note only			
Wards affected:			
Victoria			
Clay Hill			
Thatcham West			
Strategic Aims and Priorities Supported:			
The proposals will help achieve the following Council Strategy aim:			
☑ HQL – Maintain a high quality of life within our communities			
The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strapriorities:	tegy		
SLE2 - Deliver or enable key infrastructure improvements in relation to	roads.		

#### rail, flood prevention, regeneration and the digital economy

**HQL1 – Support communities to do more to help themselves** 

Officer details:

Name: Neil Stacey

Job Title: Principal Engineer (Projects)

Tel No: 01635 519113

E-mail Address: neil.stacey@westberks.gov.uk

#### 11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix A Equalities Impact Assessment
- 11.2 Appendix B Consultation Leaflet
- 11.3 Appendix C Consultation Responses and Officer Comments
- 11.4 Appendix D Detailed Drawings of the Proposed Scheme

### Appendix A

### **Equality Impact Assessment - Stage One**

We need to ensure that our strategies, polices, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:

- "(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; This includes the need to:
    - remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
    - (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it:
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.
- (2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- (3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others."

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality:

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- (The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them)
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council?

# Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.

What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:	Approve the introduction of cycle lanes on the A4 and associated changes to local road layouts
Summary of relevant legislation:	N/A
Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council's key strategy priorities?	No
Name of assessor:	Neil Stacey
Date of assessment:	26/10/17

Is this a:		Is this:	
Policy	No	New or proposed	Yes
Strategy	No	Already exists and is being reviewed	Yes
Function	Yes	Is changing	No
Service	No		

•	1 What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?		
Aims: To improve facilities for cyclists on the A4 corridor between Newbury and Thatcham.			
Objectives:	<ol> <li>Improve accessibility and safety for vulnerable road users.</li> <li>Encourage more journeys to be made by bicycle.</li> </ol>		
Outcomes:	To widen the footway and provide cycle lanes on the carriageway.		
Benefits:	<ol> <li>Reduced conflict between cyclists, pedestrians and motor vehicles.</li> <li>More attractive, safer conditions.</li> </ol>		

2 Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.

(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)

Group Affected	What might be the effect?	Information to support this
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Disability	Disabled people (people with impaired mobility)	The widened footways would be of particular benefit to young, elderly and disabled pedestrians.  If the scheme does not proceed, no such facilities will be provided, but conditions for disabled pedestrians will be no worse than in the current circumstances.	
Further Comments relating to the item:			
None			

3 Result		
Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?		
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The proposed scheme will reduce, rather than contribute to inequality, as explained above.		
Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?		
Please provide an explanation for your answer: The project aims to improve conditions for road users.		

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the <u>Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template</u>.

4 Identify next steps as appropriate:		
Stage Two required	No	
Owner of Stage Two assessment:	N/A	
Timescale for Stage Two assessment:	N/A	

Name: Neil Stacey Date: 26/10/17

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) (<a href="mailto:rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk">rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk</a>), for publication on the WBC website.

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## Have your say

If you require further information or have any comments on this scheme then please get in touch using the contact details below before 22 October 2017.

The responses will then be collated and included in a report prepared for an Individual Decision to be made by the Executive Councillor for Highways & Transport on 15 November 2017. The result will be displayed on our website and we will contact residents in advance to let them know when works are due to take place.

This consultation focuses on improvements between Newbury and Thatcham but next financial year we will look at continuing the improvements on towards Reading.

#### Fmail:

projects@westberks.gov.uk

#### Phone:

Telephone: 01635 551111

Post:

West Berkshire Council →Transport & Countryside Market Street Newbury Berkshire, RG14 5LD

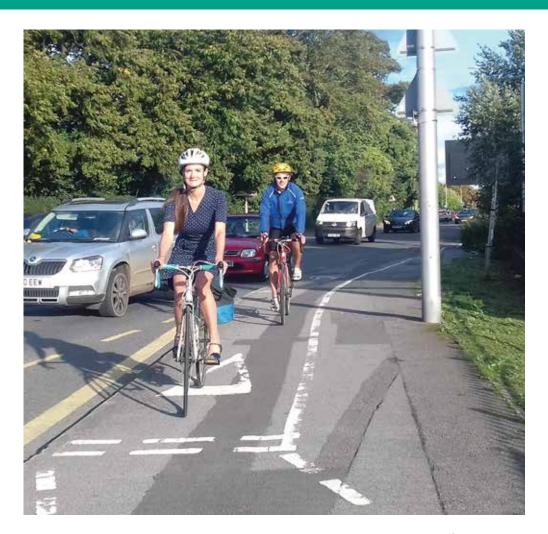
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West Berkshire Council **Transport & Countryside** 

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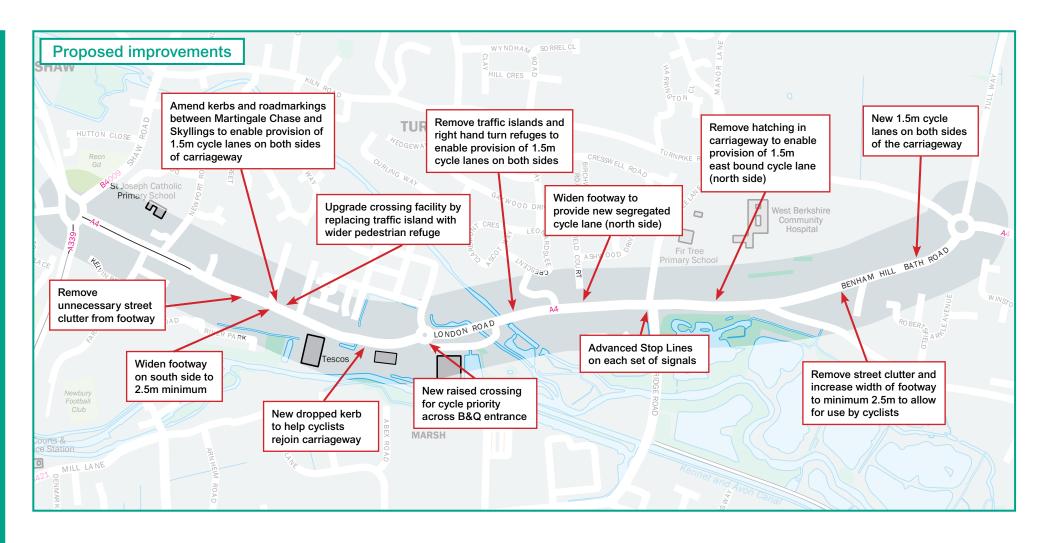
T 01635 551111 www.westberks.gov.uk/a4cycleimprovements West Berkshire Council Transport & Countryside Service

## A4 Cycle Improvements Consultation



Have your say on our proposals to make the A4 London Road more cycle friendly between Newbury and Thatcham.





## Proposed works:

The principle behind the scheme is to create safe space for cycling on the carriageway and improve conditions for pedestrians on the footway to encourage more people to make more journeys by foot and on bicycle. The proposals include:

- 1.5 metre wide cycle lanes on the carriageway
- Widen footway and convert from segregated to shared use facility
- Removal of central hatching & right hand turn lanes where appropriate
- Upgraded crossing facilities
- · Removal of traffic island 'pinch points' where possible

- Remove street clutter and relocate bus shelters, lamp columns and signposts
- · Localised repairs to improve carriageway and footway surfaces

More detailed drawings and information can be found on our website: www.westberks.gov.uk/A4Cycleimprovements

## Background information

West Berkshire Council has been successful in a bid to the Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to fund cycle improvements along the A4 corridor between Newbury and Calcot. Construction on the first phase of the scheme is expected to start from Newbury to Thatcham later this year.

## Summary of replies to consultation

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
1.	Local resident	Supportive of "anything we can do to get more people out of cars".	a) Noted.
	PHONE	b) Concerned that the pedestrian islands and RH turn lane is to be removed from outside Dorneywood Way.	b) Informed respondent that the Dorneywood Way crossing facilities and RH turn lane would remain.
2.	Local	a) Supportive.	a) Noted.
	resident POST	b) Concern re speeding –would like to see a 30mph limit.	b) Refer to Speed Limit Task Group (see paragraphs 7.11 to 7.13).
		c) Concern re the width of RH turn lanes – would prefer not to have them reduced any further than existing.	c) Refer to main body of report, paragraphs 7.6 and 7.7
		d) Request for overgrowth to be cut back along footway.	d) This will be included in the scheduled works.
3.	Local	a) Supportive.	a) Noted.
	Resident POST	b) Would like to see a 2m min RH turning lane into London Rd service road.	b) The existing RH turn lane is 1.3m wide. To increase to 2m would involve significant kerb realignment. See paragraph 7.6 and 7.7 of the report.
		c) Urged to consider reducing speed limit to 30mph west of Newbury Business Park rbt to Mercedes garage.	c) Refer to Speed Limit Task Group (see paragraphs 7.11 to 7.13).
4.	Local	a) Not supportive.	a) Noted.
	Resident POST	<ul> <li>b) Cyclists and pedestrians on the same pavement can be a toxic combination with higher speeds of cyclists and their tendency to rarely obey the signs.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>b) A central aim of the scheme is to improve conditions for cyclists on the carriageway to avoid the faster cyclists using the footway.</li> </ul>
5.	Local Resident	Supportive of cycling and improved cycling facilities in general.	a) Noted.

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
	PHONE / EMAIL	b) Concern regarding the hedgerow and trees on the northern footway between Care Home and Fir Tree Lane – would like assurances the boundary planting will remain as is an essential sound / visual barrier for properties. Also concern that proposal is to remove foliage on private property.	b) Assured resident that vegetation on private property would remain, especially being sensitive to established trees that provide cover for property. The trees and hedge line will be trimmed to improve visibility, in line with powers provided to the authority in the Highways Act 1980, but not removed.
		c) Money would be better spent improving northern footway for pedestrian use and encourage all cyclists to use the south side. No point on a new cycleway approaching Hambridge Rd junction unless vehicular traffic can be separated effectively on approach to Robin Hood rbt, from Newbury business park onwards.	c) The improvements (de-clutter, tree clearance, localised widening) will make the northern footway friendlier for pedestrians. The plans enable separation of vehicular and cycle traffic through on-carriageway advisory cycle lanes the entire length of the scheme (with exception of outside BP Garage, where we are awaiting a planning application / outcome of land ownership dispute to see if we can amend kerb lines).
		d) Too much HGV traffic (from M4 to Colthrop) makes walking uncomfortable.	d) Noted, but not within the scope of this project.
		e) Alternative solution would be create new cycleway parallel, away from A4, either on Hambridge / Turnpike Road or along Canal towpath.	e) The towpath is being upgraded by CRT with S106 funds from the racecourse development. Parallel routes were looked at but not taken up.
6.	Local	a) Not supportive.	a) Noted.
	Resident EMAIL	b) Objects to the removal of traffic islands and RH turn refuge outside Swan Inn PH due to (i) well used by 3 businesses, HGV delivery vehicles, 5 properties and marina; (ii) more housing approved; (iii) cause congestion eastbound; (iv) safety grounds – impatient drivers will "undertake" using the cycle lane.	b) The number of properties accessed by the service road is still a comparatively low number and if removed the affect on traffic congestion will be negligible. On balance, it is considered that the number of vehicles making the right hand turn is less than the number of cyclists that will benefit from the scheme. The presence of a marked cycle lane will alert drivers to the presence of cyclists and remind them to look before attempting an "undertaking"

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
			manoeuvre.
7.	Local Resident EMAIL	<ul><li>a) Supportive.</li><li>b) Where does the cycle route go at Robin Hood Roundabout?</li><li>c) The south side pavement surface is poor between</li></ul>	<ul> <li>a) Noted.</li> <li>b) The cycle route will continue along Faraday Road and into Newbury town centre via Victoria Park or route 4 along the towpath. Further infrastructure will be delivered as part of redevelopment of the area.</li> <li>c) The footway is to be widened and resurfaced,</li> </ul>
		<ul><li>Tescos and Faraday Road</li><li>d) It is very difficult to cross the A4 from one side to the other.</li></ul>	<ul><li>overgrowth cutback and obstructions removed.</li><li>d) See paragraphs 7.4 and 7.5 in the main body of the report.</li></ul>
		<ul> <li>e) The hedge on the east side of Dorneywood Way is a complete blind spot for pedestrians or cyclists.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>e) The vegetation will be cutback / removed here to improve visibility.</li> </ul>
8.	Local resident EMAIL	a) Footway between Martingale Chase & Craven Dene too narrow.	a) Unfortunately the highway boundary is such that we cannot increase the width of the footway. The introduction of on-carriageway cycle lanes and provision of wider, shared footway on the southern side should give better alternatives for cyclists.
		b) Is this improvement covering the riverside cycle way?	b) The towpath will be upgraded separately by CRT.
		c) It would be great if there was a new cycleway crossing the river from various points on London Road.	<ul> <li>c) Unfortunately due to limited funds we are unable to build a new bridge as part of this project.</li> </ul>
9.	Local resident EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Supportive.</li> <li>b) Would like to see improvements to A4 junction with Martingale Chase as despite the banned RH turn vehicles still do it and it will be dangerous for the cycle lane.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a) Noted.</li> <li>b) There are limited options to deter the RH turn out of Martingale Chase; the junction is already designed to prevent it, whilst also functioning for bin lorries and larger vehicles. Enforcement is a matter for the police.</li> </ul>

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
10.	Local	a) Not Supportive.	a) Noted.
	resident EMAIL	<ul> <li>b) Removal of hatching on Benham Hill will make turning into driveway take longer and will back up eastbound traffic.</li> </ul>	b) Tull Way roundabout is 100m further to east which will provide resident opportunity to access driveway without turning across traffic lane.
		c) Fair number of incidents already and adding cycle lanes will add danger.	c) Respectfully disagree. Adding cycle lanes has been proven to improve safety, make better use of road space and encourage higher levels of cycling by offering better protection on the carriageway.
		d) Concerns re widening the footway as driveway accessed by vehicle crossover with steep gradient – seeking clarification whether the drop kerbs be reinstated and access continued?	d) All dropped kerbs will be reinstated and vehicular accesses to remain.
11.	Local	a) Not supportive.	a) Noted.
	business owner	b) Concern over sight lines for exiting side road on to A4.	b) Vegetation to be cutback and bus shelter relocated.
	EMAIL	<ul> <li>c) Concern of cyclists on footway not paying attention to signs / hazards.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>c) Cycle lanes incorporated into the carriageway will take higher speed cyclists off the footway. Only slower / less confident cyclists will remain.</li> </ul>
		d) Drivers abusing speed restrictions.	d) Enforcement of speed limits can only be done by the police.
		e) Concern reducing the hatching and width of RH turn lane (cites the Kintbury accident).	e) See paragraphs 7.6 and 7.7 of the main report.
		f) Residents of Martingale Chase use the service road as a shortcut to enable them to turn right towards Robin Hood.	f) The service road is private and unfortunately the highway authority is powerless to prevent abuse. There is no proposal to remove the RH turn ban out Martingale Chase.
12.	Local	a) Concern over pedestrian island being removed	a) It is not proposed that the pedestrian island on

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
	resident	outside Southdown Road.	Benham Hill near Southdown Road is removed.
	PHONE	b) Would like westbound bus service reinstated on Benham Hill.	b) Not within the influence of this project. Passed to Transport Services Team for comment.
13.	Local resident	a) Concern over pedestrian island being removed outside Southdown Road.	a) It is not proposed that the pedestrian island on Benham Hill near Southdown Road is removed.
	PHONE	b) Would like westbound bus service reinstated on Benham Hill.	b) Passed to Transport Team for comment.
		c) Would like RH turn made available for buses and taxis into Rooke's Way from A4 westbound.	c) This junction is to be upgraded but given the high levels of peak congestion it is not considered a worthwhile use of "green time" or carriageway space to reconfigure to allow a RH turn lane.
14.	Local resident EMAIL	a) Supportive.	a) Noted.
		<ul> <li>b) Would like more dropped kerbs added for on-road cycles to join the shared-use facility. For example, westbound prior to Tesco and prior to Faraday Road.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>b) Additional dropped kerbs have been added prior to Faraday Road. Unfortunately the presence of the bridge and narrow footway prior to Tesco means a dropped kerb is not recommended.</li> </ul>
		c) Safety concern of entrances to Tesco and B&Q (fast approach, poor visibility), especially westbound. Clarify priority and/or speed hump.	c) We propose to add a raised crossing at B&Q to slow vehicles on approach but not Tesco. This is because we cannot alter the radius of the junction as many HGVs enter for deliveries and it is considered hazardous for vehicles to be turning whilst approaching the gradient of the vertical traffic calming feature. We could set the raised crossing further back but then it would not be on the desire line for pedestrians or cyclists.
		<ul> <li>d) Proposes rumbling strips to alert vehicles they are about to drive into cycle lane. Paint itself doesn't offer much deterrent.</li> </ul>	d) Unfortunately rumble strips would not work as if positioned in or on entry to the cycle lane it would be uncomfortable for bicycles and furthermore overrun by

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
			cars would cause noise disturbance for residents.
		e) Vehicles stopping to let others turn right across them could present a problem for cyclists using the lane.	e) This is an existing hazard for cyclists travelling on the road and it is considered that adding cycle lanes and markings across junctions will highlight the potential presence of cyclists for turning motorists.
15.	Local resident EMAIL	a) Request for resurfacing.	<ul> <li>a) The A4 between Lower Way and B &amp; Q roundabout is included in the Highway Improvement programme and should be resurfaced in the next three years (exact timing and extents yet to be approved).</li> </ul>
		b) Concerned if central hatching were to be replaced with double white lines then residents would lose RH	b) Refer to paragraphs 7.8 to 7.10 of the main report.
		turn facility. c) Cyclists disobeying highway code and cycling too fast on footway past driveways.	c) Where there is an abundance of driveways, such as north side of A4 between Fir Tree Lane and Rooke's Way we are not encouraging cyclists to use the footway; instead providing an on carriageway cycle lane or the southern footway. Faster cyclists should use the road and therefore reduce conflict with vehicles exiting driveways.
		d) Speeding on A4 – request for enforcement.	d) The police are responsible for enforcing speed limits.
16.	Local resident	<ul><li>a) Not supportive.</li><li>b) Concerned that pedestrian refuges / traffic islands are being removed and will make crossing the A4 harder.</li></ul>	a) Noted. b) Clarified which islands are to be removed.
	EMAIL	c) Concern about visibility and cars turning into Dorneywood Way too fast.	<ul> <li>c) Sight lines to be improved (vegetation removed) and realignment of kerb line to reduce radius of entrance to side road to slow down vehicles turning into Dorneywood Way.</li> </ul>
		d) Request for vertical traffic calming on Dorneywood Way.	d) Vertical traffic calming feature unable to be installed at bellmouth junction as it can be hazardous for vehicles turning on the gradient.
		e) Insufficient space on north side for cycles to use	

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
		footway between Dorneywood Way and Fir Tree Lane. Cyclists instead should use the southern footway.	e) The existing footway will be widened and vegetation cleared to allow the 2.5m minimum required for shared use. The carriageway is not wide enough for cycle lanes on the road here so if there is no eastbound facility provided for cyclists to continue their journey then the route is disjointed and incomplete.
17.	Local resident EMAIL	Supportive	Noted
18.	Local resident EMAIL	Supportive	Noted
19.	Thames Valley Police EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Subject to supporting Cycle and Road Safety Audits my only observations would be the current levels of Vehicular traffic using this route and how attractive the on road sections is going to be to the cycling public. Should they feel these new proposals are unsafe they might continue to use the existing footways.</li> </ul>	Noted. If cyclists would like to continue using the shared footway they are welcome. However currently conditions on the A4 are unpleasant for cyclists and the needs of cyclists on the carriageway can't be ignored.
		b) In my experience where you have a cycle facility that part uses the road /shared footways, cyclist often ignore to use the on road sections.	<ul> <li>b) If this is the case then confident cyclists are welcome to mix with the traffic and make their own way. For those without the confidence then a safe route has been provided.</li> </ul>
20.	Cyclist EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Not supportive, on the grounds that existing cycle facilities are badly designed / implemented so no faith that what is proposed will be an improvement.</li> <li>b) Would prefer existing facilities to be amended instead.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a) Noted, but as respondent has not engaged with the detail of the design it is difficult to comment on their concerns.</li> <li>b) The funding is for a new route on the A4 corridor and therefore cannot be spent on amending existing infrastructure in other locations.</li> </ul>
		c) Cycle lanes should be kept free of parked cars /	c) Concern over parked cars is a recurrent theme, see

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
		debris so they can be useable.	paragraph 7.16 in the main body of the report.
21.	Local resident EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Supportive, welcomes the idea of cycle paths on both sides of the road. Often cycles on north side pavement if heading into town so will be a great improvement. Welcomes the de-clutter and additional dropped kerbs.</li> <li>b) Concern regarding removal of RH turn lanes (congestion) and traffic islands (needed for safely crossing road).</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a) Noted.</li> <li>b) Responded to clarify which traffic islands and RH lanes to be removed. Objection withdrawn. See paragraphs 7.4 and 7.5 of the report for more detail.</li> </ul>
22.	Local resident EMAIL	Respondent stressed preference that the new cycle route is part of the road; shared routes mixing cyclists and pedestrians on the footway are dangerous and so require a kerb between the cycleway and the pavement.	The cycle lanes are on the road as much as possible. However the budget does not allow for widespread carriageway widening. It would be unsafe to mark narrow, inadequate cycle lanes given the nature of the road and the HGV traffic. At these locations it is considered safer to have no lane then a sub-standard one. For those cyclists who are not as confident, new dropped kerbs will allow them safely on/off the shared footway.
23.	Local residents	<ul><li>a) Supportive.</li><li>b) Concern over speeding.</li></ul>	<ul><li>a) Noted.</li><li>b) See paragraphs 7.11 to 7.13 of the main body of the report.</li></ul>
	EMAIL	c) Concern over removal of central hatching between Hambridge Road and Lower Way, loss would mean no buffer between speeding vehicles and residents lose facility to wait for gap in traffic to turn into driveways.	c) See paragraphs 7.8 to 7.10 in the main body of the report.
24.	Local residents EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Not supportive</li> <li>b) Removal of hatching will remove safe refuge for westbound vehicles to turn into driveways. Instead it will force residents of the houses on London Rd to head east to B &amp; Q roundabout or west to Wyevale to turn around and reach their destination.</li> </ul>	a) Noted. b) See paragraph 7.8 to 7.10 in the main body of the report.
		c) Request instead to install facility for residents to	c) The junction is to be upgraded but given the

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
		perform U-turns at Lower Way and Hambridge Rd signals (controlled and permitted manoeuvres in light sequence).  d) Dedicated cycleways on main carriageway will undoubtedly increase the danger for cyclists, they will have to be crossed by vehicles accessing driveways. South side would be safer as no driveways.  e) How can WBC justify proposed modifications for an alarming change of priorities from heavy motorised	high levels of peak congestion it is not considered a worthwhile use of "green time" or carriageway space to reconfigure to allow this manoeuvre.  d) Respectfully disagree. Adding cycle lanes improves safety by increasing awareness from other motorists, making better use of road space and encouraging higher levels of cycling by offering better protection on the carriageway.  e) Cycle counts indicate that the A4 is well used by cyclists and therefore improvements are justified. The
		traffic to relatively occasional cyclists?	improvements have been designed to have minimal impact on traffic flow.
25.	Newbury & District Buses	<ul> <li>a) Newport Road inbound Bus Shelter/Bus Stop - proposed re-alignment. We have no objections.</li> <li>b) Skyllings inbound Bus Shelter/Bus Stop - proposed</li> </ul>	a) Noted.
	EMAIL	re-positioning on kerb. We have no objections. c) Southdown Road inbound Bus Shelter/Bus Stop – proposed removal for re-use of currently disused Bus	b) Noted.
		Shelter. Following various requests from customers and elected members we are hoping to restore a limited bus service to this stop and so would appreciate consideration being given to re-positioning of the existing Bus Stop/Bus Shelter, if necessary, rather than its removal.	c) Noted – responded (19/10). The shelter can be relocated on new hardstanding 50m west of the junction with Southdown Road
26.	WBC Transport Services EMAIL	a) Supportive.     b) Strongly encourage mandatory cycle lanes as opposed to advisory.	<ul> <li>a) Noted.</li> <li>b) Mandatory cycle lanes require more signing and can only be enforced by the police. It is considered that advisory lanes with parking restrictions as necessary will be better understood and more enforceable.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>c) Preference to keep bus shelter by Faraday Rd in its original position (to minimise damage).</li> </ul>	c) Noted. The relocation of the shelter is still to be determined pending negotiations with the landowner and the advertising management company.

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
		d) Signage, cycle lane markings and ASL to encourage cyclists to continue journeys down Faraday Rd to Football Club and rejoin NCN route 4.  e) Supports relocation of bus shelter, request to also remove hadge. Degrees for Kappal kerbs.	<ul><li>d) The cycle route will continue along Faraday Road and into Newbury town centre via Victoria Park or route 4 along the towpath.</li><li>e) Noted. Kassel kerbs will be included in the works.</li></ul>
		remove hedge. Request for Kassel kerbs.  f) Unhappy with the reduction in length of the bus layby, this may affect the ability of buses to pull up against the existing Kassel kerbs – a similar problem exists at Andover Road opposite St Johns Post Office where the layby was reduced in length just to accommodate a tactile crossing which makes it difficult for buses to access. Please can you review this?	f) Noted. Internal discussion with Transport team and further site visit required.
		g) Reiterate request for Benham Hill WB stop to be moved as part of consultation and subsequent scheme, and for the Kassel kerbs and bus stop clearway to be moved and reinstated like for like.	g) Noted and will be included in the proposal.
27.	Local residents	a) Concerned particularly in the area of Benham Hill     where it is suggested to remove the central hatching.     Several years ago when the carriageway was	a) See paragraph 7.8 to 7.10 in the main body of the report.
	EMAIL	widened from single carriageway to dual carriageway a turning point was put in for residents to allow them to get across the A4 when heading toward Newbury. With the construction of the hospital the turning point was removed and no alternative offered. This means the residents along Benham Hill from the Fir Tree Lane junction and the Lower Way junction have to get across the dual carriageway when either turning right out of their drives heading toward Newbury or returning home from the Thatcham direction. The hatching provides a safe refuge from the traffic while waiting to cross or merge in. Removing this will cause a great deal of distress and put people in considerable danger of being crashed into by the fast	

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
		moving traffic when leaving or returning to their homes. Has any consideration been given to this?  b) Has the usage of the cycle lane behind Benham Hill running past the hospital been considered as an alternative route?  c) Many cyclists choose to use the road even when there is a cycle facility or they cycle on the pavement against the flow of the traffic, has this been looked into?	<ul> <li>b) Turnpike Road and Kiln Road have been considered as alternatives but are not on the desire line for cyclists travelling to / from Newbury centre.</li> <li>c) We propose cycle lanes on the road to make it safer for cyclists who are confident and able to travel on the road alongside traffic and also propose improvements to shared footways for those who are not willing or able to mix with traffic.</li> </ul>
28.	Local resident EMAIL	a) Whilst it is welcome that the improvements are going ahead, the provision for cyclist protection throughout the whole route appears to be inadequate, particularly around the area eastbound past the BP garage and the Business Park. There is an expectation that the cyclists will join the main thoroughfare and keep their fingers crossed. Similar passed the Swan and to the Turnpike lights. Further thought into taking the cyclists off the road at those pinch points appears to be a necessity otherwise vehicle and cyclists will converge.	a) Unfortunately we are constrained by the limits of the highway boundary. We are expecting a planning application on the site of the Narrowboat PH which will make changes to the kerb layout so hopefully we can improve the cycle facility here as part of the development. We are also in talks with the landowner to widen the footway and make shared use. To the east of the Swan Inn PH there unfortunately is not enough carriageway space to continue the cycle lanes because the right hand turn lane and informal crossing points are too well used to remove. We have to strike a balance to meet the demands of all road users. However we have improved access on / off the carriageway and made the northern footway shared so have given cyclists an option to bypass queuing traffic. What is proposed is therefore an improvement to the existing layout.
		<ul> <li>b) Same at Benham Hill, as traffic pulls away from lights eastbound, 2 lanes into 1, and shared with cyclists appears very dangerous.</li> </ul>	b) It would be ideal to protect cyclists on the carriageway up the hill, where the lanes merge, but there is not enough space available without amending kerb lines.

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
			Pending location of existing services we will add a dropped kerb here to assist less confident cyclists on to the shared-use footway and extend the shared facility up the hill as an alternative option and save them getting squeezed out by passing cars. It should be noted that there is a shared use facility accessed prior to the junction via a dropped kerb for cyclists to bypass the lights. For those cyclists travelling on the carriageway a new Advance Stop Line is provided to help them get ahead of queuing traffic so that they are clearly visible to other motorists before the merge.
29.	Local resident EMAIL	a) Supportive: Hopefully wide enough for full shared use.	a) The shared use footways all meet the criteria in that they will be 2.5m wide absolute minimum, and 3m unobstructed where we can. The only exception being on the bridge outside the Narrowboat PH, where we are waiting on a planning application.
		<ul> <li>b) Concerns are the on road paths seem to disappear at critical points i.e. roundabouts and junctions e.g. south side of tull way roundabout. It maybe that access to off road path is planned to be easy to fully segregate vehicles and bikes at these more dangerous points?</li> <li>c) On road cycle paths are not as desirable as full</li> </ul>	b) Wherever the on-carriageway cycle lanes stop we will provide a dropped kerb access on to the shared footway.
		segregation by barriers but a lot better than nothing. Are rumble strips or raised white lines planned to delineate?  d) I hope the yellow lines stop parking as cycle path on south side of Turnpike Road west of Fir Tree Lane is	c) See paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 in the main report.
		effectively useless at times from parked cars.	d) See paragraph 7.16 in the main report.
30.	Local	Supportive: The upgrades to the A4 route look to be beneficial for both cyclists and walkers as currently	a) Noted.

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
	resident EMAIL	the combined cycle/ pedestrian lane is too narrow and has many obstructions on the south side. b) Request for good cycle lanes incorporated into Faraday Road when this area is re-developed. c) Can you confirm that you intend to have an east to	<ul> <li>b) The cycle route will continue along Faraday Road and into Newbury town centre via Victoria Park or route 4 along the towpath. Further infrastructure will be delivered as part of the redevelopment of the area.</li> <li>c) Continuous cycle lanes are proposed on both sides,</li> </ul>
		west and west to east cycle route on both the north and south sides of the A4?  d) My other concern is a suitable crossing somewhere around the Dorneywood area for cyclists and walkers to safely cross the A4 and to not just rely on a pedestrian island. The traffic along this route is almost constant and needs a proper zebra crossing in this area just as there is outside the Tesco supermarket further west. The crossing would also probably help traffic from Dorneywood Way access to the A4 which at times can be almost impossible if you want to turn west.	majority on the road, but where carriageway space is limited provision continues on shared footways (i.e. between Dorneywood Way and Lower Way).  d) Concern regarding crossing facilities is a recurring theme in the consultation, see paragraphs 7.4 & 7.5 in the main body of the report for detailed response.
31.	Local resident EMAIL	a) Supportive b) Would like to see changes to the footway/cycle path through the Bus Stop between Dorneywood Way and Hambridge Rd. The path between the bus shelter and the bus stop on the road is very narrow and quite dangerous as one has to cycle between people waiting in the bus shelter and the narrowing of the path for the bus stop. When buses stop there, passengers disembark without considering cyclists approaching, and passengers boarding the bus will block the path. People waiting in the bus shelter can suddenly step out into the path when they see a bus	<ul> <li>a) Noted.</li> <li>b) We will investigate to see whether this bus shelter can be relocated as part of the project. This will depend on the location of underground services, permission from the advertising/management company and approval of the WBC Transport Service.</li> </ul>

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
32.	Local resident EMAIL	approaching.  a) Supportive b) Would like to see changes to Tescos entrance, preferably raised entry treatment and clear signage like what is proposed at B&Q?	<ul> <li>a) Noted.</li> <li>b) We propose to add a raised crossing at B&amp;Q to slow vehicles on approach but not Tesco. This is because we cannot alter the radius of the junction as many HGVs enter for deliveries and it is considered hazardous for vehicles to be turning whilst approaching the gradient of a vertical traffic calming feature. We could set the raised crossing further back but then it would not be on the desire line for pedestrians or cyclists.</li> </ul>
33.	Local Resident EMAIL	Supportive	Noted.
34.	Local Resident EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Supportive</li> <li>b) The cycle lanes must have sufficient room for vehicles to pass, maybe have some kind of divider so that vehicles cannot encroach the cycle lane (similar to London).</li> </ul>	a) Noted.  b) Cycle lanes will be a minimum of 1.5m as per the recommended design guidelines.
35.	Local Resident EMAIL	<ul><li>a) Not supportive.</li><li>b) Cyclists do not use existing paths.</li></ul>	a) Noted. b) See paragraph 7.17 for detailed response.
36.	Local Resident EMAIL	a) Supportive.     b) Please can you stop people parking on cycle paths.	a) Noted. b) See paragraph 7.16 for more details.

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
37.	Local Resident EMAIL	<ul><li>a) Not supportive.</li><li>b) Cyclists do not use existing paths.</li><li>c) Why do you allow cars to park on them?</li></ul>	<ul><li>a) Noted.</li><li>b) See paragraph 7.17 for detailed response.</li><li>c) See paragraph 7.16 for detailed response.</li></ul>
38.	Local Resident EMAIL	Supportive.	Noted.
39.	Local Resident EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Shared footway too narrow.</li> <li>b) Hedging needs to be cutback by B &amp; Q.</li> <li>c) Visibility obstructed by bus shelters.</li> <li>d) Prefer on-carriageway instead of shared footway as it has right of way and tends to be better maintained.</li> <li>e) Cars parking on cycle path.</li> <li>f) Prefers not to have cycle lanes continued through roundabouts citing St John's roundabout as example.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a) Under the proposals we intend to widen the footway.</li> <li>b) The hedge will be cutback as part of the planned schedule of works.</li> <li>c) Bus shelters will be relocated where possible to improve conditions on the shared footway.</li> <li>d) We have tried where possible to provide continuous on-carriageway cycle lanes.</li> <li>e) See paragraph 7.16 for detailed response.</li> <li>f) Noted. The cycle lanes are proposed to stop well short of the roundabout to allow cyclists to position themselves for their direction of travel.</li> </ul>
40.	Local Resident EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Not supportive.</li> <li>b) Cyclists do not use existing paths.</li> <li>c) Money would be better spent on a proper all-weather surface for the towpath between Thatcham and Newbury.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a) Noted.</li> <li>b) See paragraph 7.17 for detailed response.</li> <li>c) The towpath will be upgraded separately by CRT with S106 money from the racecourse development.</li> </ul>

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
41.	Local resident EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Not supportive.</li> <li>b) Simply painting lines on roads is ineffective as motorists think being in their traffic lane is good enough rather than giving cyclists adequate space. Instead invest in proper segregated cycle lanes (which can be done easily and inexpensively by bolting bollards on to the surface).</li> <li>c) Shared paths are not a good idea. Larger, heavier cyclists, travelling at 20mph do not mix well with pedestrians.</li> <li>d) By creating 'cycle space' that isn't used by cyclists because it isn't fit for purpose, more antagonism is created between road users.</li> <li>e) The plans should be reviewed by a Dutch road planning department. Please explain which cyclists were consulted?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a) Noted.</li> <li>b) See paragraph 7.14 for detailed response.</li> <li>c) It is for the faster cyclists that we propose cycle lanes on the carriageway; only slower less confident cyclists would expected to continue to use the shared paths.</li> <li>d) See paragraph 7.17 for detailed response.</li> <li>e) The plans were drawn up in consultation with West Berkshire Cycle Forum, West Berkshire Spokes and Newbury Road Club committee, as well as consulting</li> </ul>
42.	Local resident EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Supportive.</li> <li>b) Existing infrastructure is substandard as cars regularly park on cycle lanes.</li> <li>c) Please address the issue of crossing roundabouts.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>individual cyclists who use the route.</li> <li>a) Noted.</li> <li>b) See paragraph 7.16 for detailed response.</li> <li>c) Noted. The cycle lanes are proposed to stop a good distance short of the roundabout to allow cyclists to position themselves for their direction of travel</li> </ul>
43.	Local resident	a) The proposed scheme further reduces space on the carriageway for little benefit. The number of cyclists	<ul><li>(instead of an arrangement like St John's which has divided opinion).</li><li>a) Cycle counts show that the A4 is well used by cyclists and with increasing congestion this number is hoped</li></ul>

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
	EMAIL	on this route is pretty minimal and hardly warrants this level of expense or disruption to vehicular usage.	to rise once cycle facilities are improved. The 'propensity to cycle tool' <a href="http://pct.bike/">http://pct.bike/</a> shows that improvements to the A4 will have greatest affect on journeys made by bike.
		b) It would be far more encouraging to see the council work with landowners along the canal to install a hard surface alongside the towpath.	b) The towpath will be upgraded separately by CRT with S106 money from the racecourse development. Negotiation with all the landowners, let alone CRT, on this 4 mile stretch would be very complicated and expensive. It would also prove very difficult to engineer; we would have to upgrade existing structures, remove protected trees and hedges, reinforce the banks with sheet piling (both canalside and to protect against erosion from the backwater) and construction of the new path is likely to be challenging with limited access.
44.	Local resident	a) Cars park on footways that are cycle routes and across cycle lanes forcing riders into the path of motorised vehicles.	a) See paragraph 7.16 of main report for detailed response.
	EMAIL	<ul><li>b) Cars park on footways that are cycle routes.</li><li>c) Crossing T junctions on cyclepath footways the priority is with the motorist instead of the cyclists.</li></ul>	<ul> <li>b) See paragraph 7.16 for detailed response</li> <li>c) Cycle lanes will have priority and will be well signed with frequent cycle symbols across junctions to alert drivers to the presence of cyclists. Shared footway will not have priority but will have slower speed cyclists.</li> </ul>
		d) Upgrade the canal towpath as a traffic-free alternative.	d) The towpath will be upgraded separately by CRT with S106 money from the racecourse development.
		e) Separate vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians to improve safety for all users.	e) See paragraph 7.14 for detailed response.
45.	Local Resident EMAIL	a) Removal of the 2 traffic islands in the centre of the A4 at the Tesco junction will make it much more difficult and dangerous for traffic leaving the retail estate's car parks from turning right. The proposed layout means	a) The proposal will make it more difficult to turn right out of the Tesco car park, but it is considered that the new signalised crossing near to the junction creates sufficient gaps in the traffic for cars to be able to exit.

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	that they will have to wait for coincident gaps in the traffic in both directions, which in view of the traffic levels for most of the day will mean both a considerable wait and also a substantial increase in the risk of accidents. As a substantial proportion of those leaving the shop parking turn right, the first of these will result in much longer tailbacks for much of the day blocking not just the traffic turning left onto the A4 but also extending into the shop's car parks at peak periods. Once that happens traffic wanting to enter those car park will back up to the A4 and at times block the westbound carriageway. While that may make it safer for exiting traffic to turn right, it will still severely reduce the capacity of the A4. Acceptable solutions are to retain the islands, widen the carriageway, or make the junction traffic light controlled (and incorporate the nearby signalised pedestrian crossing).	It is anticipated that there is enough queuing space back into the car park so that the exits will not become blocked and affect the westbound carriageway of the A4.
	b) The advance stop line on the eastbound carriageway at the junction outside the hospital only extends to the left hand lane and is therefore no use to cyclists wanting to turn right into Lower Way. Thus it appears that the only safe route provided for cyclists who want to enter Lower Way is to dismount and use the crossing arrangements for pedestrians. Is that what is intended and if so why, as if a full width advance stop line is dangerous here, what is so different from other junctions such as that for Hambridge Road where there are advance stop lines across all lanes?	b) The ASL reservoir does not extend across the whole road because of the sequence of the lights. We wouldn't want to encourage cyclists to cross two lanes of live traffic to wait in the RH lane. The signage here will ask cyclists to use the footway instead if they want to turn right (directional signage linking to other destinations and existing cycle network hasn't yet been drawn up for the route). The proposed ASL is not so much to assist cyclists in making the right hand turn but rather its function is to help cyclists bypass queuing traffic via the feed-in lane and position themselves clearly in the line of sight of motorists and get a head start before the merge.
	c) Removing the hatched area between Hambridge Road and Tull Way will have adverse consequences.	c) Please refer to paragraphs 7.8 to 7.10 of the report for

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	Although the amount of traffic from any individual property will be very small, because the drives a large number of properties directly enter the A4, in total a substantial number of vehicles either turn right on joining the carriageway or on leaving it especially during peak traffic.  Currently, the central hatched areas enable most of them to do so relative safety. Removal of the hatched areas will substantially increase that risk. Moreover, where there is only lane in each direction, there is risk of traffic hold ups when residents return home during peak hours and hold ups inevitably mean more congestion and more disgruntled drivers who will inevitably present a higher risk of a road traffic incident.  d) While I support your move to separate cyclists from pedestrians where you sensibly can as it is dangerous to mix them, encouraging cyclists back on the main carriageway, all be it with the protection of a dedicated cycle lane, will mean an even greater increase risk to cyclists, especially on faster roads and when the density of traffic is high. Would it not be safer to widen the footways and set them up for segregated use?  e) Bearing in mind both that and that the large number of properties along the route have drives opening directly onto the carriage way and the extra risks that involves, should you not be considering reducing the speed limit to 30mph throughout this whole section. If you do not propose to lower the speed limit at this time, do you have any accident data for this section of road and if so what is it and will you continue to be provided with that information in the future as that would facilitate an informed decision?	detailed response.  detailed response with regards to speeding. The proposals have been drawn up taking into account accident data and accident data will be monitored and reviewed as will cycle counts and speed surveys to evaluate the successes of the scheme in achieving its objectives.

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
		f) Precisely what are proposed; mandatory or advisory cycle lanes?  g) Unlike the other stop lines at Newport Road and the adjoining Faraday Road junction, there is no advance stop line for cyclists on the westbound carriageway. While there would be a good case for this if there was no right turn, the lack of such a lane means that the only safe route provided for cyclists who want to enter Newport Road from the eastbound cycle lane on the A4 is to dismount and use the crossing arrangements for pedestrians. Is that what is intended and if so, why is it is proposed to have an advance stopline across both west going lanes only a few metres further on when the need to be on the right is much lower because there is no right turn?	f) We are proposing advisory cycle lanes, supplemented by double yellow lines to prevent parking where deemed necessary. g) The redevelopment of the London Road Industrial Estate will deliver better cycling infrastructure in the area and may make further changes to the signalised junction. It is considered that the majority of cyclists will be making a left rather than continue towards the Robin Hood roundabout, or right turn into Newport Road so wayfinding signage will be installed to direct cyclists into Faraday Road. For the same reason that we have not offered a full width ASL elsewhere in the scheme, the signals are sequenced so that the ahead lanes and right turn lane do not necessarily receive the green light at the same time and we would not want to encourage cyclists to cross two lanes of live traffic to wait in the RH lane. There are toucan crossings available. Please let it be noted that the function of the ASLs in this scheme are as much a means for providing cyclists opportunity to bypass queuing traffic and position themselves safely and visibly ahead of vehicles to prevent 'left hooks' and increase awareness of their presence before road merges as they are for assisting the RH turn.
46.	Local Resident EMAIL	Cyclists do not use existing cyclepaths, instead using the road and sometimes footways that are not meant for bicycles.	a) See paragraph 7.17 for detailed response.
47.	Local Resident	<ul><li>a) Supportive.</li><li>b) Concern regarding the hedgerow and trees on the southern footway on London Road – would like</li></ul>	a) Noted.     b) No trees or hedges will be removed without prior notice to the residents.

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
	EMAIL	assurances the boundary planting will remain as is an essential screening sound / visual barrier for properties. Also concern that proposal is to remove foliage on private property.  c) Cycle lane and wider footway will make turning out from side road on to A4 more difficult especially with increased use.	c) Cyclists using the cycle lane on the road should be treated the same as vehicular traffic. The shared footways will no longer have priority across the side road. On balance, increasing journeys made by sustainable transport is entrenched in government policy and if it delays individual residents from joining the carriageway from their private property (by seconds, not minutes) then the trade off is to be
		d) Reduction of turning lane width will mean if a car is positioned in the centre of the road traffic will have to enter the cycle lane to undertake.	considered a positive.  d) See paragraph 7.6 in the main body of the report for detailed response.
48.	Local Resident EMAIL	a) As an increasingly elderly cyclist I would not want to cycle on the main carriageway given the number of HGVs and high density of traffic.	a) The shared footway will be widened for less confident cyclists to use away from traffic.
		b) The proposed cycle lane is incomplete ceasing at locations outside BP Garage and Southdown Road asking cyclists to mix with the main carriageway. I feel this will be both dangerous and confusing for cyclists and motorists.	b) We are waiting on the outcome of a planning application for the former Narrowboat PH which could make changes to the kerb layout so hopefully we can improve the cycle facility here as part of the development. Should this not materialise we are also in talks with the landowner to widen the footway and make shared use.
		c) I am concerned for the safety of pedestrians crossing the A4 if there are fewer traffic islands in the middle of the road to help people cross in 2 stages. The existing hatching also helps pedestrians when crossing the road.	c) See paragraphs 7.4 and 7.5 in the main body of the report for detailed response.
		d) Concerned as a motorist about the proposed removal	d) See paragraph 7.8 in the main body of the report for

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		of hatching on Benham Hill, and the loss of ability to turn across traffic.  e) Removing the traffic islands at the entrance/exit to Tesco will make it much more difficult for traffic to leave and turn right. It could potentially cause hold ups for traffic and more accidents.	e) The proposal will make it more difficult to turn right out of the Tesco car park, but it is considered that the signalised pedestrian crossing near to the junction creates sufficient gaps in the traffic for cars to be able to exit. It is anticipated that there is enough queuing space back into the car park so that the exits will not become blocked and affect the westbound carriageway of the A4.
49.	Local Resident EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) There should be no need to make provision for cyclists both on and off carriageway simultaneously; in doing so neither is achieved satisfactorily. The existing cycle path along Lower Way provides a much safer cycling experience as it is segregated from the main carriageway. This would be a preferable arrangement on the A4, with raised crossings at side roads, instead of cycle lanes.</li> <li>b) 1.5m lanes are wholly inadequate; as written in to the Highway Code and close pass initiatives. Instead they encourage cyclists to pass more closely by hugging the white line.</li> <li>c) Existing cycle lanes are obstructed by parked vehicles, forcing cyclists out in to the main</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>a) See paragraphs 7.14 and 7.15 in the main body of the report for detailed response.</li> <li>b) Cycle design guidance suggests 2m wide lanes but there is not enough carriageway space available. The absolute minimum is 1.3m. Currently there are cycle lanes on the A4 through Thatcham that are 1.5m wide and these offer a much more pleasant cycling experience than in areas where there are no lanes. By having no lanes at all vehicles try to pass a lot closer in urban environments.</li> <li>c) See paragraph 7.16 in the main body of the report for detailed response.</li> </ul>
50.	Town Councillor	<ul> <li>carriageway.</li> <li>a) Not supportive.</li> <li>b) Question choice to route the cycle improvements along the A4 with high HGV traffic and air pollution – it</li> </ul>	a) Noted.     b) The towpath is being upgraded by CRT with S106

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
	EMAIL	will never be attractive nor encourage cycling. Instead better routes are available - why not upgrade towpath instead?	funds from the racecourse development. Parallel routes were looked at but not taken up, refer to report Section 5 for more detail.
51.	Local Resident EMAIL	a) Not supportive     b) Central hatching required as buffer for high speeds and as a refuge to help residents turn right across traffic into their driveways.	<ul><li>a) Noted</li><li>b) Refer to paragraph 7.8 to 7.10 in the main body of the report.</li></ul>
		c) The money would be better spent by implementing traffic calming measures to slow down the dangerously high speeds and/or by turning the road into a single carriageway.	c) Refer to paragraph 7.11 in the main body of the report.
52.	West Berkshire Spokes EMAIL	<ul> <li>a) Supportive</li> <li>b) Cycle friendly improvements required to the Faraday Road junction and within London Road Industrial Estate.</li> </ul>	a) Noted     b) Further infrastructure will be delivered as part of redevelopment of the area.
		c) Would like to see more double yellow lines to protect the on-road cycle route as well as prevent parking on the footway.	c) Refer to paragraph 7.16 in the report.
		d) The eastbound cycle lane ends just west of the BP Garage. Why? What status do painted bicycle symbols have here if there is no dedicated lane?	<ul> <li>d) We are expecting a planning application on the site of the Narrowboat PH which will make changes to the kerb layout so hopefully we can improve the cycle facility here as part of the development. We are also in talks with the landowner to widen the footway and make shared use. The larger cycle symbols positioned din the middle of carriageway are to alert motorists that cyclists are sharing the main carriageway and encourage cyclists to adopt a primary riding position.</li> <li>e) The ASL reservoir does not extend across the whole</li> </ul>
		e) Please clarify how eastbound cyclists get into Lower Way? What will the signage say?	road because of the sequence of the lights as we wouldn't want to encourage cyclists to cross two lanes of live traffic to wait in the RH lane. The signage here

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		f) With no dedicated on-carriageway cycle lane up Benham Hill from the signals with Lower Way can there be a dedicated section of shared-use footway instead?	will ask cyclists to use the footway and toucan crossings instead if they want to turn right (direction signage linking to other destinations and existing cycle network hasn't yet been drawn up for the route).  f) The plans will be amended to include new signage and dropped kerbs to make the footway shared-use on this section before the cycle lane starts on Benham Hill.
53.	Newbury Town Council MEETING MINUTES	a) Concern was raised regarding the cycle platform at the entrance to B&Q, Members felt that the slowing traffic entering the site might cause accidents to those vehicles going straight across the roundabout. Clarification was sought as to who has priority under the proposed arrangement?	a) Visibility is currently very poor at this location with sight lines obscured for vehicles exiting the car park. The proposal will address this by relocating signage and extensive vegetation clearance. The raised crossing will slow vehicular speeds approaching the cycleway and make it safer for cyclists. Drivers should not be racing from the car park across a cycleway and footway to meet gaps in the traffic to cross the roundabout. The vertical traffic calming feature will prevent this. However there will not be a zebra crossing for bicycles installed as then priority is assumed and, given that there are none elsewhere in West Berks drivers will not be used to the arrangement – potentially creating more danger for cyclists. Priority will therefore remain with the motorist.
		b) The Committee notes that this stretch of the A4 is a fast road with heavy traffic, however, it agreed that anything that encourages cyclists to use cycle paths should be supported. The Committee has no desire to see the road made narrower with the provision of a cycle path/lane.	b) Noted, hence the need to offer more protection for cyclists on the carriageway. We will not be making physical changes to amend the kerblines so that the carriageway is narrower, but the traffic running lanes will be reduced to accommodate advisory cycle lanes. The road safety audit did not see this as a problem.

	Reply from	Comments made	Officer Response
54.	Thatcham Town Councillor	a) Cycling on footways is illegal and should not be encouraged.	We only encourage cycling on footways when we are satisfied that it is safe to do so and the area has been properly designated as shared between cyclists and pedestrians.
	EMAIL	b) As much space as possible should be given to motor traffic on Benham Hill	b) There is room for an eastbound on-carriageway cycle lane and an extra westbound traffic lane if the central hatching is removed and replaced with a double white line.
55.	Local resident POST	Reducing the width of the northern footway is dangerous for pedestrians, especially vulnerable users (partially sighted, those with accessibility issues and children walking to and from school). Would prefer cyclists to use southern side; there is no need for cyclists to use both sides.	a) The footway on the north side between Skyllings and Martingale Chase is more than 5m wide in its current state so is wide enough to convert to shared use by both pedestrians and cyclists, even taking into account the vulnerable users. There is not enough room to continue the cycle lanes on-carriageway through here as we have to accommodate the needs of all users; pedestrians (by maintaining and upgrading the informal crossing); motorists (by keeping facility to turn right into the side roads); residents (by not reducing parking capacity); and cyclists (by continuous provision of cycle route).
		<ul> <li>b) Making the north footway shared will cause problems for residents getting in and out of their driveways.</li> <li>There is no space to park at Skyllings or Martingale Chase.</li> </ul>	b) Given that it is classified as an 'A' road the properties on this section of London Road do not have a right to park their car in their front gardens without prior planning permission from the council.

