

Good morning.

My name is Laura Greatrex and I'm the Labour Candidate for Didcot West.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak to you briefly today.

My colleague and Councillor, Mocky Khan and I are calling for Hitchcock Way in Didcot to be widened to two lanes, alleviating congestion at the busy entrance to the car park for the Orchard Centre.

This short piece of road is a traffic pinch point and currently causes frequent traffic jams tailing back past the railway station.

This creates delays to buses and car users, generates fumes from idling vehicles and presents a safety concern as drivers heading straight on to Jubilee Way roundabout mount the pavement in frustration to get past the queues for the car park.

Our petition calls for the widening of Hitchcock Way to two lanes approaching from the west. We believe there is ample space on both sides of the road to accommodate the improvement without the need to reduce existing provision for cyclists or pedestrians.

Our concern is that the views of Didcot residents are not being heard by the current Lib Dem/Green County Council administration. Despite this issue being raised in multiple consultations having taken place in 2016/17; again in Summer 2022 and then again in June 2023 – they have not brought forward a solution that works for all road users.

In fact the County Council have ignored the issue of the traffic pinch point and only presented solutions for cyclists, pedestrians and wheelers in the Didcot Central Corridor project. We believe that our approach will benefit all road users not just one group or another.

Our petition is therefore calling for Hitchcock Way to be widened to two lanes alleviating the congestion and delivering for the people of Didcot.

Thank you.