

Planning

HEAD OF SERVICE: Adrian Duffield



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By email Anthony.Kirkwood@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Our reference: P14/V0067

24 March 2014

Dear Mr Kirkwood

Re-location of existing pelican crossing and installation of new pelican crossing on the A415 in the vicinity of Drayton Road and Spring Road, Abingdon

Further to my letter dated 6 February 2014 in respect of the above, I now write with additional comments and concerns on behalf of the district council in response to your consultation.

At its meeting on 19 February the Council passed the following resolution:-

The Council notes that the Oxfordshire County Council is currently considering installing an extra pedestrian crossing in Ock Street, Abingdon and moving the location of the existing crossing in Marcham Road. Council is concerned that this will not only cause potential safety issues, but may also have air quality implications due to the likelihood of increased queuing traffic - particularly in Marcham Road, Ock Street, Spring Road and Drayton Road. It therefore asks the Chief Executive to relay these concerns to both the OCC Highways Team and the County Councillors representing Abingdon.

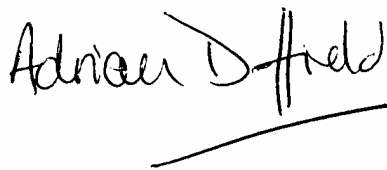
I now write on behalf of the Chief Executive and advise, notwithstanding any previous comments, that the district council objects to this proposal for two reasons.

The first of these is the reduced safety of pedestrians arising from the change in the established pattern of usage of the existing crossing in Marcham Road, particularly by school children. I enclose a copy of a highways safety audit prepared on behalf of the district council by Glanville. This concludes the proposal will replace a safe arrangement with a less safe one because the new crossings do not correspond to the natural desire lines of the majority of pedestrians. It also notes that the majority of the relevant pedestrian flows from north to south, and vice-versa, across the roads are school children.

The second objection relates to air quality. I enclose a copy of the professional opinion of Tim Williams, the council's environmental health officer. The district council has been monitoring air quality in the vicinity of the Ock Street roundabouts for some years. Pollution is often high and has regularly exceeded safety limits, and the council is considering designation of a Air Quality Management Area for Ock Street and Marcham Road. Although the implications of the revised pelican crossings cannot be completely foreseen at this stage, the introduction of a new crossing in Ock Street in addition to the existing one in Marcham Road has the clear potential to increase queuing traffic in both west and east directions on the two roads, and to further increase occurrences of unsafe levels of air pollution.

I hope my clarification of our objections is clear and that you will present this letter along with the supporting evidence to your Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor David Nimmo Smith, at his meeting 27 March and ensure it is given careful consideration.

Yours sincerely



Adrian Duffield
Head of Planning

Encl. Report of Air Quality impact and Glanville Safety Audit report

c.c.

County Councillors: Neil Fawcett, Sandy Lovatt, Alison Rooke,
Ward Councillors: Julie Mayhew-Archer, Tony de Vere, Jason Fiddaman,
Aidan Melville, Jeanette Halliday, Jim Halliday, Angela Lawrence, Helen Pighills,
Marilyn Badcock, Mike Badcock, Richard Webber
Drayton (Abingdon) Parish Council Clerk: David Perrow
Leader: Mathew Barber
Planning Cabinet Member: Roger Cox
Chief Executive: David Buckle