

Division(s): Barton, Sandhills and Risinghurst

CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT – 27 JUNE 2019

OXFORD: A40 AT RISINGHURST – PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CENTRAL RESERVE GAP AT JUNCTION WITH ACCESS TO FORMER NIELSENS SITE

Report by Director Community Operations

Recommendation

1. The Cabinet Member for Environment is **RECOMMENDED** to approve the proposed closure of the central reserve gap which currently permits the right turn to the A40 eastbound carriageway from the former Nielsen's office site on the south side of the A40, as advertised.

Executive summary

2. The former Nielsen's office site on the south side of the A40 is being redeveloped for residential use and it is considered advisable on road safety grounds as a result of the revised use of the land to close the existing gap in the central reserve that currently enables vehicles to turn right from the development site to the A40 eastbound carriageway as part of a planned major maintenance scheme in the summer of 2019.

Introduction

3. This report presents further information in response to concerns raised to a statutory consultation on the above proposal and also raised by County Councillor Glynis Phillips and for this matter City and Parish Councillor Roz Smith in person at the Cabinet Member for Environment decisions meeting on 31 May when this item was previously considered and deferred. That report is attached at Annex 1.
4. While supportive of the proposal in principle, Councillor Phillips and Councillor Smith both expressed strong concerns that this should be considered in the wider context of traffic and pedestrian movements in the area, including the Risinghurst residential area. A specific issue raised was the delay in progressing an options study for improvements on the A40 in the vicinity of the Collinwood Road junction, including to address hazards faced by pedestrians crossing the A40 dual carriageway at the uncontrolled crossing point immediately east of this junction.

Response to concerns raised by members

5. In response to these concerns, it is confirmed that feasibility design work for a new pedestrian and cycle crossing of the A40 at Collinwood Road is being

carried out and a draft report prepared. This work is funded through the Oxfordshire Growth Deal and forms part of the wider project 'Oxford Wide Pedestrian and Cycle Schemes'.

6. That work is almost complete and will be shared with key stakeholders once completed. However, at present, there is no further funding identified to progress further design work on the scheme or deliver measures at this location.
7. Officers are yet to fully digest conclusions of the feasibility report but consider that should the A40 access at the former Nielsen's site be closed, as proposed, it would have a negligible impact on a crossing facility at Collinwood Road should this come forward at a future point.
8. However, it is considered that the safety benefits of closing the central reserve gap as proposed are significant taking account of the currently approved development and potential for additional development at the former Nielsen's site and that the opportunity afforded by the programmed major maintenance scheme this summer to achieve this at substantially lower cost than would otherwise be possible should be taken.

How the Project supports LTP4 Objectives

9. The proposals would help facilitate the safe movement of traffic.

Financial and Staff Implications (including Revenue)

10. Funding for the proposed measures will be met from the planned major maintenance scheme.

OWEN JENKINS
Director of Community Operations

Background papers: Plan of proposed closure of central reserve gap.
 Consultation responses

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