

Parish Clerk

From: Martin Watson <martinwatson@warwickshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 27 November 2023 19:10
To: Nattasha Freeman; Parish Clerk
Cc: Steve Stuart; Andy Keating; Rebecca Alcock; davidreilly@northwarks.gov.uk
(External)
Subject: RE: Accident waiting to happen - HS2/O'Brien works Water Orton Village

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

OFFICIAL

Dear Cllr Freeman, firstly apologies for the delayed response, I thought I had sent this and was prompted by Rachels email to check only to find in my drafts folder. Please see below the response to me from my County Highways colleagues:

The dropped kerbs that have now been installed have been done so to improve facilities for pedestrians and to assist them crossing the road and navigating themselves down St Blaise Avenue on the existing tarmac footway. This google images below confirms that the "desire line" taken by other groups of pedestrians walking to the park, has indeed been like this prior to the installation of the dropped kerbs so we are confident we have not created this problem by improving pedestrian facilities.



There are a variety of options you could consider to formalise a “way in” to the field should you chose although the fact remains that when they finally get in to the field, they are walking on grass, mud and uneven ground again..... all we would be doing would be investing in improvements for approximately 35m then the situation would be exactly the same in the field again.

Options to consider:

- *Preventative measures such as some railings – however, this is undoubtedly going to push pedestrians into the road on Vicarage Lane*
- *Formalising the existing layby with kerbs and a footway around it – this would be expensive*
- *Putting a tarmac footway at the back of the area adjacent to the highway boundary to the gate*
- *Putting a timber edged breedon gravel path at the back of the area adjacent to the highway boundary to the gate (this would require more maintenance more frequently than a tarmac path)*
- *Move the new dropped kerb further down in to Blaise Close and restore the junction to its former condition.*
- *Do nothing and leave as.*

From my perspective I agree we haven’t caused this issue by the introduction of the dropped kerb as people were walking across the grassed areas prior to it being installed. I think the railings or formal layby with kerbs and a footway would be too costly. For the path options to be considered I would need to see the existing access gate (see below) be reversed, e.g. the pedestrian entrance to be next to the hedge and away from the road or vehicle access area, which would need to be undertaken by the Parish Council. The other options are to move the dropped kerb and return the area to how it was before or do nothing?
Happy to discuss further at this week’s PC meeting.



@Rachel, this relates to Appendix 2 of the agenda.

Regards,
Cllr Martin Watson
Warwickshire County Council
Coleshill North & Water Orton Division
Portfolio Holder for Economy
07392 262598

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From: Nattasha Freeman <Nattasha.Freeman@turntown.co.uk>

Sent: 01 November 2023 08:43

To: Martin Watson <martinwatson@warwickshire.gov.uk>

Cc: stevestuart@wopc.org.uk; Clerk@wopc.org.uk

Subject: FW: Accident waiting to happen - HS2/O'Brien works Water Orton Village

Importance: High

Restricted - External

Good morning Martin

I hope that you are well.

Just coming back to you at your request to ask for an update on the situation below. Outside of my role at WOPC, health and safety is my profession and accordingly I realise that the risks that I raised last year with you still remain. These are risks that the Council has been aware of since I initially raised them (the email below datestamps that concern), so in the event of an accident, the time taken to address them would be considered to have increased your liability in this respect.

What is needed specifically is:

- ✚ The ground outside the park/playing field entrance to be levelled up so that the transition from the dropped kerb to the entrance is on a level and the level is smooth and without gradient;
- ✚ For this area to become a no-parking area and signage advising people of this to be displayed;
- ✚ Ideally for pedestrians/wheelchair/mobility scooter/pushchair users to be directed to use the park as a preferred route rather than use Vicarage Lane where you have no segregation for pedestrian/vehicular users*.

(* Please be aware that to avoid New Road where they know their speed is being monitored, there has been an increase in HS2 traffic using Vicarage Lane and their vehicles are faster and wider then standard vehicles used by the villagers: and these are driven by people who are not familiar to the area, and who may perhaps not be expecting non-vehicular users to vbe using that as a walking route.)

It has been a year now since I raised the need for a safer access onto the park/playingfield. With winter approaching the access will become more precarious not only due to the weather making the uneven ground outside the entrance more slippy but also because the footballers will park on the grass forcing wheelchairs/mobility scooters and pushchair users into a vehicular route: where it is dark at 4pm.

As I explained at last year's meeting the installation of the dropped kerbs at the end of St Blaise Road has introduced a risk which is now foreseeable: and which has been known to yourself for 12 months.

Kind regards,

Councillor Freeman, WOPC

From: Andy Keating <andykeating@warwickshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 October 2022 08:53
To: Martin Watson <martinwatson@warwickshire.gov.uk>; CountyHighways NorthArea General <chnorth@warwickshire.gov.uk>; Cameron Cashmore <cameron.cashmore@balfourbeattyvinci.com>
Cc: Phillip Robinson <phillip642robinson@btinternet.com>; Nattasha Freeman <Nattasha.Freeman@turntown.co.uk>; Graham Stanley <grahamstanley@warwickshire.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Accident waiting to happen - HS2/O'Brien works Water Orton Village

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OFFICIAL

Dear Cllr Watson

I have carried out a highway extent and it shows the section of land in front of the entrance to the sports field is owned by WCC. I would like to discuss any feasible options with Graham Stanley before any firm ideas are put forward. Graham is on leave until the 12th October so I will catch up with him on his return.

The works, if possible would be classed as improvement works which WCC don't hold a budget for, would you consider funding this through your delegated budget ?

Regards

Andy

Andy Keating

Locality Officer
County Highways North
Communities
Warwickshire County Council
Tel: 01926 412515
Email :Andykeating@warwickshire.gov.uk
Web :www.warwickshire.gov.uk

From: Martin Watson <martinwatson@warwickshire.gov.uk>
Sent: 30 September 2022 15:30
To: Andy Keating <andykeating@warwickshire.gov.uk>; CountyHighways NorthArea General <chnorth@warwickshire.gov.uk>; Cameron Cashmore <cameron.cashmore@balfourbeattyvinci.com>
Cc: Phillip Robinson <phillip642robinson@btinternet.com>; Nattasha Freeman <Nattasha.Freeman@turntown.co.uk>
Subject: RE: Accident waiting to happen - HS2/O'Brien works Water Orton Village

OFFICIAL

Andy, I was at the Water Orton Parish meeting last night and Nattasha was present and raised the below concerns. Can you please investigate as a matter of urgency on your return from leave on the 4th Oct and respond with your findings.

@Cameron, I have left you in the email trail as aspects of item 2 and certainly item 3 is a HS2/BBV issue, so would appreciate your review/input as well.

1. The dropped kerbs (pedestrian crossings) at the junction of St Blaise Avenue and Vicarage Lane in Water Orton - You will recall we installed these at the specific request of a resident to facilitate them being able to push their disabled daughter from Jacques Close along Vicarage Lane and back up St Blaise, which I accept is exactly what they facilitate. I am also aware that the drop kerb in St Blaise Avenue was not installed as an intended access to the sports field and that there has never been access to the sports field from this side other than to go on the carriageway. Questions:
 - a. Is there a safer way to facilitate access to the playing fields at this location?
 - b. Is there an alternative means for pedestrian access to the site, e.g. via the bowling green site?
2. Vicarage Lane roadworks and Gas works traffic exclusion zone – Can you investigate what permits have been approved for works in this area as there are concerns from the residents that there does not appear to be a ‘joined up’ approach and that the principles that have been employed do not appear to comply with Chapter 8 requirements?
3. HS2/BBV vehicles are travelling on the road with their yellow flashing lights active, which they shouldn’t be doing outside the construction zones and/or guarding/exclusion areas.

Regards,
Cllr Martin Watson
Warwickshire County Council
Coleshill North & Water Orton Division
07392 262598

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