

APPENDIX A

Evendons Lane-Finchampstead Road Improvements – COMMENTS & OBJECTIONS SUMMARY

Letter/Email from	Comment/Objection	Officer Comment
<p>Wokingham Town Council</p>	<p>The Town Council welcomes the proposal to improve pedestrian safety at this junction but believes that the proposed scheme could be improved, on the basis that the proposed siting of the controlled junction on Finchampstead Road is potentially unsafe. Due to the splay of the junction, drivers turning left out of Evendons Lane tend to be looking to their right as they emerge from the junction and may not be able to stop in time if the signal is on red, especially if they have only slowed down at the junction, instead of stopping fully.</p> <p>The Town Council therefore proposes an alternative solution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relocate the traffic signal controlled crossing to the south of the junction. 2. Relocate the existing speed camera to the south of the junction. 3. Provide a dropped kerb by the school entrance and don't install the proposed dropped kerbs shown on the drawings near 7 Evendons Lane. 4. Leave the existing footway (shown in green on the drawings) as is. 5. Do not implement the proposed new footway (shown in blue on the attached plan) because pedestrians already use the existing, safer, footway in front of nos.1-9 Evendons Lane. 6. If possible, widen the pavement from Finchampstead Road round into Evendons Lane as shown in red on the attached plan. 	<p>Thank you for passing on the comments from the Town Council's Planning & Transportation Committee.</p> <p>Having looked at the comments, it is certainly possible to incorporate some of the suggestions in the proposals, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removal of the new proposed length of footway from the pedestrian crossing into Evendons Lane - Retaining the existing footway layout at the junction of St Helier Close - Providing a dropped crossing near to the school entrance <p>However, moving the pedestrian crossing to the south of the junction has a number of issues;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moving it to the south is likely to result in the facility being under-used as it will be too far away from the identified desire line for pedestrian crossing movements. We understand the school has some desire to operate a walking bus from the local public house car park and the location as proposed provides is the better option. 2. The footway adjacent to the school is too narrow to accommodate a crossing without widening 3. The proximity of the bends on the approach to a crossing on the south side of the junction would reduce the advance visibility of the signal making it a less safe place to install the crossing <p>It is for these reasons the crossing location should remain as proposed. The concerns regarding traffic exiting Evendons</p>

Lane have been noted and any improvements to reduce the potential for conflict will be investigated and implemented as part of the scheme. It should be noted that the current proposals have been through a Stage 1/2 Safety Audit undertaken by independent safety advisors who made not adverse comments regarding the proposals.

Unfortunately, it will not be possible to relocate the existing speed camera to the south of the junction as part of this scheme due to limited budgets, in addition, this location is likely to be too close to the bend on Finchampstead Road for effective enforcement. Any new location would need to be assessed and agreed with TVP, and whilst there is scope to investigate this separately if the Council wished, it is likely that TVP would not agree to this proposed location.

Finally, widening of the south-west footway from Finchampstead Road into Evendons Lane would not be possible without the purchase of third party land which is likely to prove a lengthy and prohibitive process. It is therefore recommended to proceed with the proposals as outlined, incorporating the above changes.

The Town Council's Planning & Transportation Committee comments will be reported in full to the Executive Member for Highways and Transport along with the officer comments as noted above. Our recommendation will be to proceed with the scheme as proposed incorporating the following changes;

- Remove the new proposed length of footway from the pedestrian crossing into Evendons Lane from the scheme
- Retain the existing footway layout at the junction of St Helier Close

		<p>- Provide a dropped crossing near to the school entrance</p> <p>I hope this response provides you with enough explanation as to enable the committee to support the delivery of the scheme with the suggested amendments</p>
Cllr Dianne King	<p>The Town Council Planning Committee have met and made their comments, which I believe you should have received.</p> <p>Also Evendons Borough Councillors, Chris Bowring, Mark Ashwell and myself have discussed aspects of the scheme with some local residents and the NAG (including Evendons school).</p> <p>Comments received are that the footpath should stay as is, the retention of the facility of a left hand turning lane has been welcomed, but there is concern that the crossing may be too close to the junction.</p> <p>I hope this can be taken into account when the decision is made.</p>	Officer comments above cover the issues raised by Cllr. King.
Council Leader	I fully support this scheme	
Thames Valley Police	TVP have no objection to this scheme	
Head of Governance and Improvement Services	I have no specific comments to make on this report	
Wokingham Town Council	<i>Following WBC's explanation of the amended proposals at a meeting on 18th February WTC members accepted them (albeit with reservations) as a compromise solution, with the possibility of some modifications to the junction design if it proved necessary later on.</i>	

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