

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Regeneration and Environment
2.	Date:	10th January, 2011
3.	Title:	Proposed pedestrian refuge – Worksop Road, Aston
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

To report an objection to the proposed pedestrian refuge on Worksop Road near its junction with Manvers Road.

6. Recommendations

Cabinet Member is asked to resolve that:

- i) the objection to the proposed pedestrian refuge be not acceded to and the objector be informed of this decision**
- ii) the pedestrian refuge be constructed this financial year as shown on drawing No 126/17/TT116**

7. Proposals and Details

When the Aston Joint Service Centre received planning permission, an agreement was entered into between the developer and the Council in which a contribution was offered towards a pedestrian crossing facility to the west of the Joint Service Centre to assist with pedestrian access, for customers walking from Aughton and Swallownest.

Pedestrian demand would not justify provision of a controlled pedestrian crossing, so a proposal for a pedestrian refuge as shown on drawing No 126/17/TT116 attached as Appendix A, was promoted. Adjacent residents were consulted, and an objection was received from the resident of 48 Worksop Road.

Their objection is based on the grounds that they have to reverse on to Worksop Road. Rearward visibility to the east is limited by the alignment of the road, and they felt that vehicles are travelling towards them at speed.

They currently reverse onto Worksop Road, wait for vehicles to pass and then drive away. They feel that vehicles travelling west would attempt to overtake them bringing them into conflict with the new refuge. They also expressed concern about cars parked on the footway outside the snooker club further obstructing visibility to the east.

In view of these concerns further design work was undertaken to establish other potential locations. An alternative location was identified, but this proved problematic as further along Worksop Road where a refuge could be accommodated, the adjacent properties are mainly terraced houses with limited off street parking. There could also potentially be displaced parking by visitors to a nearby church. On the south side of Worksop Road there is a side road, The Beeches which is narrow, with no footways. The presence of a refuge would hinder access and egress to this road. Residents of The Beeches also raised concerns that there would be no suitable location to leave wheelie bins for collection.

It is therefore felt that adjacent to 48 Worksop Road is the optimum location for a pedestrian refuge.

To allay the expressed concerns, it is proposed that bollards be installed to deter vehicles from obstructing the footway outside the snooker club. The central hatched area on the approach to the refuge should be extended as far as possible to the east (road width permitting) to effectively narrow the carriageway, reduce speed and alert drivers to the presence of the refuge and other possible hazards.

8. Finance

The developer will fund the full cost of the refuge including fees.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Failure to install the refuge would restrict pedestrian access to the Joint Service Centre, particularly for those with limited mobility. Furthermore, failure to install would require the Council to reimburse developer.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The proposals are in line with objectives set out in the South Yorkshire Local Transport Plan.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Appendix A Plan number 126/17/TT116 showing the location of the proposed pedestrian refuge

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