

Joyce Holman

From: BPR Group <bprgroup@mymaillist.co.uk>
Sent: 31 August 2018 10:11
To: Joyce Holman
Cc: Anthony Hawkins; John Short; Malcolm Pitt; Paul Bishop; Brian Robinson; Julie Walker; Diny Howard
Subject: South Swindon Parish Council - Support for a Crossing and Footpath on Marlborough Road and Biddestone Avenue

To: South Swindon Parish Council

31 August 2018

Dear Joyce,

Proposed Footpath - Marlborough Road A4259/Biddestone Avenue Junction

Further to our telephone conversation today in regards to SSPC support for a crossing and footpath across Marlborough Road and Biddestone Avenue to the bus stop, BP/M&S shop and garage and Holiday Inn.

Background

In October 2017, your Coate at Badbury Park Residents Group submitted a request to SBC for the provision of a footpath on the North side of Marlborough Road A4259 from the bus stop adjacent to the Texaco garage (now being constructed as BP/M&S Petrol Station and shop) to a new pelican crossing across Marlborough Road at the junction with Biddestone Avenue.

SBC Highways and Transport (SBC H&T) did not support our request on grounds that facilities are available at Liden and future build out of shops on Coate at Badbury Park as justification not to have to make provision here by the developer and SBC didn't believe it is expected to plan an individual's journey for them should they want to access the now BP/M&S Shop or adjacent bus stop.

With more residents now living on Coate at Badbury Park and the construction of the new BP/M&S Petrol Station and Shop, we now propose to resubmit our request and would now appreciate support from residents to justify our request at bprgroup@mymaillist.co.uk

Please see below our request dated 5 October 2017

To: SBC Highways through Fionuala Foley and Eric Shaw Ward Cllrs

Copies:

Robert Buckland QC MP, Parish Cllrs John Short, Anthony Hawkins, Michael Dickinson and Badbury Park Residents

Date: 5 October 2017

Marlborough Road A4259 Proposed Footpath Extension, Refuge and Dropped Crossing

The submission

To request the provision of a footpath on the North side of Marlborough Road A4259 from the bus stop adjacent to the Texaco filling station to a new pelican crossing across Marlborough Road at the junction with Biddestone Avenue.

The current position

Currently, there is no way to access the Badbury Park development from the bus stop on the north side of Marlborough Road other than to cross the dual carriageway and the central reservation (which is considerably higher than the carriageway). This is proving difficult for all residents but particularly the old, disabled and those accompanied by young children.

Although this is an obstacle for all it particularly impacts on:

1. The old who feel unable to cross the wide carriageway between the gaps in the traffic.
1. Those with impaired vision or an inability to judge the fast-moving approaching traffic. (The speed limit on this busy road is 50 mph).
1. The central reservation currently makes it impossible to cross with a wheelchair or mobility scooter and is hazardous to cross with a pushchair.

Although there is a pelican crossing at the junction of Marlborough Road and Homington Avenue (half a mile to the east) there is no bus stop at this junction and no pavement between the two junctions on the north side of Marlborough Road.

Much of the infrastructure for the pelican crossing is in place. There are already existing traffic lights at the junction, which we understand was paid for by the developer using Section 106 money. A pelican crossing exists across Biddestone Avenue at the junction (although ironically not across the busy Marlborough Road).

The bus stop serves a number of bus routes (see appendix 1 below). These not only include Thamesdown routes from the town centre on their way to the Great Western Hospital but also routes to Marlborough, Salisbury, Wantage, Oxford and London and Heathrow.

What the proposal will bring

A safe crossing on the dual carriageway would mean all residents would have the confidence to make use of the buses travelling along Marlborough Road. This would enable them to go into the centre of Swindon and further afield giving them access to facilities and opening up to them a range of social activities enhancing their lives considerably.

In addition to the benefits the proposal would bring to particularly vulnerable groups it would also

1. Increase footfall to the Texaco convenience store, which currently is difficult to access from the south side of Marlborough Road.
1. Give access to the post box adjacent to the filling station. (Currently the Post Office is unable to provide a post box on the Badbury Park development and therefore this is the nearest postbox.)

The alternatives

A number of alternatives to the proposal exist:

1. Currently many residents choose not to use the bus preferring to either stay at home or use their cars for local journeys.
1. It is possible to alight from the bus before the Coate roundabout, walk along Queens Drive, pass under the subway (which is unlit at night), cross the Marlborough Road West of the roundabout, cross the entrance to the Coate Park and walk along the existing pavement on the south side of Marlborough Road past the Sun Inn. The distances involved however make this impractical for the old or infirm.
1. Many residents, who believe they are mobile enough and can gauge the speed of the approaching traffic, choose to run the gauntlet of the four lanes of traffic and the central reservation when crossing the road.

1. Some residents have felt it necessary to stay on the bus until the Great Western Hospital, wait until the bus is ready to return towards the town centre and safely alight at the bus stop on the south side of Marlborough Road. However this adds a considerable unnecessary delay to their returning home and it is unfortunate they feel it necessary to go to such lengths for their safety.

1. It may be possible to build a new layby and bus stop near to the Marlborough Road/ Homington Avenue junction, which would provide access to the existing pelican crossing. However the additional cost of such a proposal and the impact on traffic flows / safety considerations of a new layby near the traffic lights has not been investigated.

1. The only other alternative that appears possible is a footbridge across Marlborough Road, although we accept this is probably prohibitively expensive.

Conclusion

This proposed footpath and pelican crossing will improve safety for everyone in Coate but especially the elderly and disabled and is seen as an essential enhancement to Badbury Park.

Coate at Badbury Park Residents Working Group

Coordinator: Peter Eves

<mailto:bprgroup@mymaillist.co.uk>