

Letter to Ken Hawkins about Stratford Road Junction

Dear Councillor Hawkins, copy Ashley Prior

Stratford Rd/Creynolds Lane junction

The Parish Council wish to respond to your online comments regarding this junction. Members observations are somewhat different to yours and members would request that when you meet with Highways officers, you also invite members of the Parish Council. Members of the Parish Council have also received replies to a number of questions raised with SMBC and remain unconvinced about the responses received.

The Parish Council was criticised by residents for not informing them that the works were to commence. This did not happen because we were not notified until less than a week before work commenced and by that time signs had been placed on the roadsides. We did not have the courtesy of consultation from SMBC either.

The reasons for the new junction are clear however, the effectiveness of operation is not. If you recall there had been a right turn out of Creynolds Lane some years ago which was not effective and therefore it was removed.

Right or left turn on to the Stratford Road from Creynolds Lane

To date, we are aware of 2 accidents where traffic turns right. The accidents occurred because motorists travelling towards Tesco noticed the pedestrian lights were green and did not notice the other set of lights, hence these accidents occurred. We would recommend road signage is put in place with some urgency to forewarn motorists. Parish Councillors realise that they are lay persons but below you will understand why they believe that further works are required to make this junction safer.

Waiting times have increased when turning out of this junction due to 3 traffic light changes formerly 2. At 9.30am you can wait 12 minutes with traffic tailing back 300 yards, to the service road by the semi-detached properties before you can clear the junction. Perhaps someone would like to comment on the delay at peak periods. The current delay will inevitably get worse when properties on Blythe Valley Park become occupied, as a proportion will not use Kineton Lane.

The drains prior to and after completion of the works could not cope with rainwater and formed a large area of ponding. This has been

reported on several occasions, but the length of time rainwater remains has significantly increased since the works have been completed. Could you please arrange for some remedial work?

Driving along Stratford Road towards Shirley

When approaching the junction of the Stratford Road and Creynolds Lane the width of the road increases from 2 lanes to 3 and shortly after Creynolds Lane back to 2.

We realise the need to keep traffic moving however, this short stretch of road has become 'a boy racers lane' when lights are green. We expect accidents to occur.

Filter lane turning right into Creynolds Lane

During peak periods the filter lane is at times full and motorists are stationary on the outside lane of the dual carriageway. The knock on effect is that this section becomes 1 lane which causes further congestion to the M42, Monkspath and Shirley. Perhaps some thought should have been given to extending the filter lane when the other works were undertaken. To conclude this is due to the increase in delay of the traffic light sequencing.

We appreciate the rationale behind the reasoning and the fact that the new road layout requires time to bed in. However, the existing new layout is meant to improve the flow of traffic and for the reasons stated above will not have an impact in its present form. Frankly members cannot see what has been achieved.

I have also been asked to inform you that 3 of the signs relating to this new junction are still in place at the side of the highway and the new tarmac when you turn left out of Creynolds Lane is crumbling. Some residents have been confused by the new and old lane markings as they are both in existence.