

Freedom of information request NCC-032528-18

Thank you for your Freedom of information request for the following information:

Having recently noticed the Road Works signs around the Ikea Island, I tried to identify what work is to be carried out. There's nothing on <https://nottinghamshire.roadworks.org/>, I eventually found the attached notice.

I can only assume that whoever made the proposal is unaware of the regular excessive traffic around the Ikea Island, caused by the two sets of unnecessary traffic lights further towards Eastwood. Installing another set of lights in what is a locally controversial stretch of road is going to increase the levels of congestion. The island is daily in grid-lock, raising the opportunity for accidents. It's also exacerbated by a significant stretch of road being restricted to users of the retail park.

I appreciate it's too late to object (even though as a local resident I haven't seen any of the notices) but I would like to try and understand how someone came to the conclusion that a further set of traffic lights would be a good idea. A subway funded by the retail park would have easily been the best solution. Why are Nottinghamshire residents having to fund these alleged improvements to situations created by a private company?

Please accept this email as an enquiry under the 2000 Freedom of information act and send me copies of any correspondence (including minutes of meetings) relating to the decision making process for this project.

Our response:

Nottinghamshire County Council "NCC" is aware of the delays that sometimes occur in the area due to the volume of traffic visiting the Giltbrook retail park alongside local traffic and has undertaken works such as signing and lining improvements in recent years to address some of the issues raised by local residents. One of the other elements of the Council's strategy to address journey time delay for motorists is to encourage more short local journeys to be made on foot or by bike, including providing facilities such as footways and formal crossings where they will encourage people to make such journeys.

The proposed crossing was requested by local residents due to the high level of traffic at the roundabout and concerns about safety when accessing the retail park on foot or by bike. Following the requests from residents, feasibility studies confirmed that it is possible to introduce a formal crossing at what is already an informal crossing point and consequently it was included in the highways programme for approval by the Transport & Highways Committee, which is made up of County Council members.

The introduction of the proposed toucan crossing at this location was approved by Transport & Highways Committee at its meeting on 16th March 2017 as part of the approval of the 2017/18 integrated transport programme (agenda item 5). This was the last meeting of this Committee I have provided below the following extract from the minutes.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAY COMMITTEE – 16 MARCH 2017

MINUTE EXTRACT

HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMMES 2017-18

RESOLVED 2017/016

- 1) That the proposed integrated transport block programme for implementation, as contained in the report and detailed in Appendix 1, be approved.
- 2) That the proposed highway capital maintenance programme for implementation as contained in the report and detailed in Appendix 2, be approved.
- 3) That the proposed highway traffic management revenue programme for implementation, as contained in the report and detailed in Appendix 3, be approved.

End of Minute Extract.

Demands on the public highway often conflict with each other, and the council has to strike a balance between the competing needs of motorists and other (often more vulnerable) road users. It is the county council's view that it is appropriate to provide facilities to encourage those who may wish to walk or cycle to the retail park and it is for this reason that a crossing is to be installed. As the customer notes, delays can occur at this location at busy times but it is felt that any additional delay caused by the occasional call on the pedestrian/cyclist crossing is not likely to significantly worsen the situation.

I should advise that subways are no longer considered appropriate crossing facilities due to the anti-social behaviour that nearly always takes place and the unpleasant and unwelcoming environment they create. In fact, councils are now more likely to remove subways than build new ones. In any event, it wasn't possible to secure developer contributions towards the cost of any form of crossing at this location due to the rules surrounding the planning process. As a result, the council is funding the crossing from its integrated transport budget.

I trust the above information is of assistance to you.

If you are unhappy with the way your request was dealt with and wish to make a complaint, please write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP or email foi@nottscc.gov.uk quoting the reference above.

With kind regards

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