

Report to the Warminster Area Board – 20 May 2010

Update report regarding suggested mini roundabout for Copheap Lane / Portway

Background:

Warminster Town Council approached the area board, 4 March 2010, requesting a mini roundabout at the junction of Copheap Lane and Portway to ease the flow of traffic.

The area board commissioned Warminster Community Radio to ask members of the public, who were unable to attend the meeting, what they thought about the proposal. 24 people were interviewed and all but one agreed that a roundabout was a good idea.

Councillor Tonge informed the meeting that the Council's 2010/11 budget had been set, so this project would have to be considered as part of next year's budget. Councillor Tonge also highlighted that resources are restricted and have to be allocated according to priority.

The proposal was supported by a large proportion of the area board audience, with one person objecting.

The following recommendation was made:

- The Area Board supported the proposal for a mini roundabout to be installed at the junction of Copheap Lane and Portway in principal, and recommend that Wiltshire Council Highways conducted a feasibility study of the scheme, including appropriate parking restrictions. It was also agreed to recommend the consideration of extending the 30mph zone as appropriate.

This report sets out the initial investigations of the principal highways engineer.

Outcome of initial investigations:

A full analysis of the junction is required, to investigate the following points:

- Whether the proposed roundabout would fit in the available space
- Implications for traffic queues and turning movements
- Analysis of recent traffic counts done at the junction (see appendix 1)
- Provide the area board with a detailed report.

On initial inspection, the principal highways engineer believes that a mini-roundabout would be feasible and would offer a number of advantages, such as improved traffic movement at the junction and a likely reduction in speed of through traffic.

There are a number of significant disadvantages, including the likelihood of a marked increase in traffic flow along Copheap Lane. Another concern is the loss of kerb side parking space that will inevitably result from the proposal.

The cost of the proposed project is another major issue. An initial estimate puts the cost of construction in the order of £100,000, or more depending on the underground services under the road. This could prove to be prohibitive, given the demands on

the budget for other safety related projects and the likely future spending cuts on transport for local authorities expected from Central Government.

Highways engineers will be unable to give firm recommendations without a thorough investigation. The analysis is being undertaken at the moment and will be reported at a future meeting (intended date 24 June 2010).

Recommendation:

- That the Principal Highways Engineer provides a full report to the area board, following further investigation.

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(Report based upon information provided by Martin Rose, Principal Highways Engineer)

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Westbury Road/Copheap Lane/Portway Junction Diagram