



ABBHEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

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Rebecca Trowse
Programme Manager,
Western Expansion Area - V4, Watling Street Pedestrian Crossings
Public Realm Service Group
Synergy Park
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Dear Rebecca,

With regard to the proposed consideration of yet another at-grade crossing on V4 Watling Street (WEA j3/26), may I formally object on behalf Abbey Hill Parish Council and the residents of Two Mile Ash.

Construction of an at-grade crossing at WEA J4 is already compromising the safety of residents who should have been supported by an underpass.

Funding of £3M was put aside to deliver two underpasses some time ago.

Financial mismanagement appears to leave us with an inconsistent approach of building one underpass at J25 and potentially a series of at-grade crossings, giving mixed messages to the public about the safety of mixing pedestrians/cyclists with grid-road traffic.

At-grade crossings have been wholeheartedly rejected by the public in your own consultation.

Why do you continue to ignore this?

Continued implementation of at-grade crossings in spite of public objection not only compromises the safety of cyclists and pedestrians by introducing them directly to motorised traffic on grid roads but will result in increased pollution and continue to undermine safety across Milton Keynes as a whole.

Not only that, but the inevitable increased congestion (which is completely unnecessary given underpasses could and should have been implemented) will infuriate residents and visitors alike.

Most requests by pedestrians to cross at these crossings will take place just at the time we have most motorised traffic (i.e. the rush hour); the worst possible time to keep stopping traffic flow.

The more of these crossings that appear the more Milton Keynes Core Strategy and MK's excellent original planning is undermined, destroying what was a fabulous vision that supported cycling and walking years ahead of the now essential need to encourage both.

Gradually you will erode the ability of the Milton Keynes grid road network to operate smoothly providing fast efficient transit across a large area (which has huge economic benefits) thus reducing our city to the level of an 'ordinary' town.

Once again, may I remind you that just one fatality as a result of encouraging more cyclists and pedestrians to be in close proximity with motorised vehicles costs taxpayers approximately £1.75M. This is about what an underpass costs.

Please reconsider this proposal, build further underpasses as necessary and save lives.

We look forward to your response to these points.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Vischer, Clerk, on behalf of Abbey Hill Parish Council