

Notes from the Henleaze STAG meeting Tuesday 7th March at the Eastfield Inn

Item 1:

- Detailed look at Cairns Road crossing proposal tinyurl.com/j9wc69w and formulate a group response.

We looked very carefully at the plans, which looked quite complicated. Special thanks to Terry Miller who helped us to decipher them. It was welcomed that a crossing was planned at this point although we had some concerns and ideas. I sent a response to the consultation which is attached below.

Item 2:

- Update on council cutbacks which will affect our school crossing patrols.

As part of council spending cuts, Bristol City Council are wanting to slash as many school crossing patrols as possible. They are surveying each location and will announce which are to be cut. We agreed there was little we could do in the meantime and we wait to hear. Terry Miller also informed us that Mildred Miller is on the mend and hopes to be back at work soon.

Item 3:

- A chance to feedback on recent road layout changes.

The raised table and widened crossing on Springfield Grove has been very well received. It clarifies the crossing point and more vehicles tend to give way to pedestrians who are waiting to cross.

The changes on the other approach to school, on Park Grove seem less clear. The raised table has slowed traffic but does not clarify the crossing point, as it is not the point used by the school crossing patrol.

Item 4:

- Introduce a sign-up genius page for watering and tending plants to be placed on the railings outside the main entrance.

Many thanks to Lyra and Jake from class 3 who helped me to plant the flowers last weekend. I hope the planters will encourage drivers to slow down and give a wide berth when passing the school entrance. And they certainly cheer the place up too.

I plan to replace the daffodils when they die back around easter, by which time some of the other plants should have become more established. If anyone is growing any suitable plants for their garden and can plant a few more, donations will be greatly appreciated.

I need to organise on-going maintenance to keep the planters looking good. They will need the following:

Water 2 or 3 times a week during dry weather, with miracle grow if we want them to look spectacular and dead head any flowers to make way for new buds.

I will create a sign-up genius that breaks down into short term or holiday time blocks.

It was suggested that the children might like to become involved. There is currently no gardening club. It may be a good activity / responsibility for children who have one to one sessions with a learning support assistant?

Consultation Response

I run the Henleaze School Travel Action Group and as such I am really pleased to see the proposal for a crossing at Cairns Road.

We held a meeting last night and looked closely at the proposal. We all looked at how we use the space and tried to imagine how it would be with the changes. It forms a valuable link via quiet streets to Henleaze school and vice versa to the church, playgroups and preschool, so it will help our local community as well as enhancing the Southmead cycling quietway.

We had a few concerns and have some suggestions that may be helpful to consider.

Considerations for local people:

- Loss of parking.*
- Introduction of a 'no right turn' onto Coldharbour Road. (alternative route easily available)*
- Introduction of a 'no right turn' into Cairns Road. (alternative route easily available)*

Considerations for cyclists:

- Cycling within the door zone of parked cars.*
- When heading south, crossing Cairns Road straight after the crossing to get back on the left side of the road.*
- 0.5m of space wasted on chevrons to buffer a 1.5m wide one way cycle lane that could be a 2m wide two way lane.*

General considerations:

- Crossing's lack of visibility.*
- Clearing too many parked cars could actually enable drivers to go faster.*
- Conflict between cyclists and pedestrians. (minimal)*

Ideas that may improve the proposal:

- Instead of keeping parked cars on the SW side of Cairns Road and putting double yellows on the NE side, you could allow parking on the NE side and place the cycle lane up against the pavement on the SW side. It would remove the potential of cars pulling out or opening doors on to cyclists and allow the build outs on the SW corners to be slightly more moderate.*
- It would remove the need for the 0.5m width of chevrons and so the lane could become 2m wide and two directional, hence cyclists traveling South would be able to stay on the cycle lane until it ends at a give way, then cross onto the left hand side of Cairns Road South at a place of clear visibility.*
- Both of these changes may enable the 'no right turn' into Cairns Road or onto Coldharbour Road to become unnecessary.*
- To do everything in our power to make it visible and successful it would be good to have halo led lights on the belisha beacons, which are more clearly visible.*
- I understand that there can be no parking by the crossing to make sure there are clear sight lines but the drawing has double yellow lines continuing past the safety zig zags. This would make it very difficult for local people to park and it would be good to minimize this loss of parking.*
- Finally, perhaps a 'cross with caution' sign would highlight the need for care to be taken to minimise any driver/cyclist/pedestrian conflict.*