

A SUMMARY OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO NOW

DATE	EVENT
NOVEMBER 2019	WCC launch a consultation for speed cushions in Warwick Road and a 40mph speed limit on Pittern Hill
DECEMBER 2019	KPC response supporting speed limit but opposing speed cushions outside residential property
JANAURY 2020	KPC site meeting with officer to press the case for the response
JUNE 17	KPC requests an update to the consultation
JULY 12	KPC again requests an update
JULY14	<p>WCC respond with the following: <i>The works are expected to start mid August, but we will confirm as soon as we have an actual start date. The works will commence within the site access before extending out onto the main Warwick Road and are expected to take 30 weeks. Please be aware that it will be necessary to close Warwick Road to undertake some of the works and we will ensure that road users are given advance warning of the dates and diversion route details.</i></p> <p>An accompanying "General arrangements" drawing shows 2 side by side cushions and (in tiny print as a road marking with no additional annotation) the words Bus Stop at the bottom of Pittern Hill</p> <p>In the consultation Police formally object to the speed limit and KPC object to the cushions, but both are to be implemented</p> <p>NB NO TIMESCALE TO THE CLOSURE WAS GIVEN AT THIS STAGE</p>
AUGUST 8	WCC advise KPC that the site entrance will be created week commencing 24 August
AUGUST 11	A resident advises KPC that a bus shelter is to be erected at the junction of Pittern Hill with Brookhampton Lane. Information obtained from the developer
SEPTEMBER 10	In response to a phone call from the Parish Council Clerk Cllr Williams advises that "the bus shelters will be manufactured in vandal resistant steel and not wood. I have been advised that it is not standard procedure for consultation with parish councils to be carried out in advance of new infrastructure (including bus stops and bus shelters) being installed on the public highway in association with developer related agreements, e.g. a Section 278 agreement, as the provision of such infrastructure at the location is a legally binding agreement.
SEPTEMBER 11	Following a phone call from the Chair of KPC Cllr Williams advises that there will not be a shelter outside 5 Park View Court and that "Mr & Mrs [REDACTED] at No 5 Park View Court will be visited by an engineer before work commences to discuss the final position of the bus stop which will be on the footway sited between No. 4 and No. 5 so that it will not interfere with either property."
SEPTEMBER 17	<p>Further information from WCC officers received: Dear Kineton Parish Council,</p> <p>Section 278 Agreement Bus Stops Infrastructure Works on Warwick Road in Kineton</p> <p>I am writing in response to the recent emails Kineton Parish Council has issued to Cllr Chris Williams regarding the forthcoming bus stop infrastructure works on Warwick Road in Kineton, which are focused on creating a pair bus stops specifically serving a nearby residential development. Your emails have been forwarded to me for attention as the lead WCC officer covering bus infrastructure provision across the County.</p> <p>As you are aware, the bus stops are being provided by a Developer in association with a Section 278 Agreement to enable occupiers of their site to easily access the bus service serving Kineton. This is in accordance with national planning policy guidance, which promotes the need for connectivity between new development and the public transport network to promote sustainable travel contributing towards reduced car use and improving the environment.</p>

A Section 278 Agreement is a section of the Highways Act 1980 that allowed the Developer to enter into a legal agreement with the County Council (in our capacity as the Highway Authority) to deliver permanent bus stop infrastructure on WCC maintained public highway, as part of a planning approval.

I confirm that the extent of the Section 278 bus stop infrastructure works is as follows:

1. Provision of a new bus stop on Warwick Road adjacent to Park View Court comprising a bus stop pole, kerbing and bus stop clearway box markings on the carriageway
2. Provision of a new bus stop on Warwick Road near the junction with Brookhampton Lane comprising a bus stop pole, kerbing, bus stop clearway box markings on the carriageway and a bus shelter

I understand that Mr & Mrs [REDACTED] at No 5 Park View Court will be visited by an engineer prior to the works being undertaken, who will outline where the bus stop will be installed. Unfortunately, a bus shelter cannot be erected at the new bus stop near Park View Court due to constraints caused by the narrow width of the footway.

For reassurance, similar developer contribution funded bus stop infrastructure works were recently carried out on Banbury Road (B4100) near The Gaydon Inn site in Gaydon, which I understand were well received by residents and Gaydon Parish Council.

I acknowledge that some residents will be forced to park their vehicles elsewhere because of the bus stop clearway box markings being put in place. However, WCC officers deem the infrastructure as necessary in order to ensure that parked vehicles do not obstruct access to the bus stop for buses, which in turn, would force residents to encroach onto the carriageway to board or alight a bus which would be a safety concern.

I sympathise with the view expressed by the Parish Council that some form of consultation should take place regarding the bus stops. Notwithstanding, I confirm that it is not WCC protocol to carry out consultation with affected stakeholders (including Cllr Williams in this case) prior to the delivery of S278 Agreement bus stop infrastructure works due to the following important considerations:

- A Section 278 Agreement is a legally-binding agreement between the County Council and the Developer to provide infrastructure on WCC maintained highway specifically for the purpose of serving a new development, and therefore, this legal commitment is not compatible with consultation even with WCC Members, i.e. seeking discussion and deliberation with affected stakeholders aimed at obtaining views on a proposal which could be subject to alteration as an outcome; and
- The County Council is responsible for maintaining the bus stop infrastructure installed on the highway in association with a Section 278 Agreement throughout its lifespan including covering all maintenance costs, and therefore, it is entirely appropriate for the County Council to be the only party involved in steering what the Developer constructs on our highway. For example, WCC officers do not support your suggestion for a wooden bus shelter to be provided at the Warwick Road bus stop as such a structure would be complex and costly to maintain, and furthermore, restrict the County Council in delivering potential further improvements to bus stop in the future, e.g. installation of a Real Time Information (RTI) display informing residents of the actual arrival time of the next bus – the display would need to be attached to the interior of the bus shelter.

In response to your concerns raised regarding the forthcoming bus stop near Park View Cottages creating considerable disruption to traffic flow, I confirm that the

	<p>S278 Agreement bus stop infrastructure works were subjected to an independent Road Safety Audit and traffic modelling exercises carried out by the Developer, which both raised no concerns regarding obstruction to traffic flow. Buses would only be stopping momentarily at the new bus stops to pick up and alight residents and the WCC Passenger Transport Team confirm that the bus stops will not be used for layover purposes. WCC officers do not anticipate that any noticeable traffic congestion will arise because of the new bus stops.</p> <p>In response to your kind invitation, WCC officers agree that it would not be meaningful for a WCC officer to attend the next virtual Zoom Parish Council meeting on 22 September 2020, as this response clearly sets out the position of the County Council.</p> <p>Yours sincerely,</p>
SEPTEMBER 18	KPC suggest several alternative locations for the inbound bus stop
SEPTEMBER 21	WCC respond explaining why any alternative location cannot be considered. KPC seek support from Leader of WCC Cllr Seccombe
SEPTEMBER 21	KPC request further clarification
SEPTEMBER 22	WCC clarify their reasoning
SEPTEMBER 22	KPC offer a further suggested alternative position
SEPTEMBER 24	WCC respond with further technical explanation for the confirmed location
OCTOBER 7	<p>KPC advised by WCC of the closure date and diversions. This is the date that roadside boards are installed. The duration is explained as the nature of the work including the depth of excavation.</p> <p>KPC responds with copy to Leader of WCC with questions concerning the formal notification process and requesting confirmation of 24/7 or otherwise</p>
OCTOBER 8	<p>WCC respond with:</p> <p><i>The contractor will arrange for further local communication including a letter drop when we know the precise date that this closure will be required, which will not be before the 2nd November. We will also notify local businesses when we know precisely when the closure will be required. Any further updates to these dates will be added to the information boards on the roadside to keep the wider travelling public informed.</i></p>
OCTOBER 8	KPC response requests additional information
OCTOBER 16	KPC requests again
OCTOBER 19	KPC request support from Cllr Seccombe
OCTOBER 21	KPC requests again and also seeks confirmation that schools and bus services have been notified
OCTOBER 22	<p>WCC respond with</p> <p><i>We are circulating a reminder letter to local residents and businesses next week and I will ensure that the local schools get a copy of the letter. Road signs informing general traffic along this section of Warwick Road that this section of Warwick Road will be closed have been erected for over three weeks and I am sure that local bus services will be aware of this. Again I will make sure that local bus services get a copy of the reminder letter.</i></p>
OCTOBER 23	KPC makes informal contact with schools and Johnsons Buses – neither have received formal notification
OCTOBER 23	A formal response from KHS expressing considerable concern is forwarded to the Leader of WCC
OCTOBER 23	Multiple emails between WCC, KPC and Kineton High School
OCTOBER 24	Cllr Seccombe agrees to a meeting to discuss situation
OCTOBER 26	Meeting confirmed for October 27