

A417 Statutory consultation feedback from Coberley Parish Council

Coberley Parish Council supports the proposed scheme, as set out in the Statutory Consultation 27 September to 8 November, as the optimum solution to improve the A417 Missing Link between Brockworth bypass and Cowley roundabout.

The Council does, however, have the following concerns upon which, it requests action to be taken.

1. The proposed new A436 roundabout. The Parish Council has concerns that congestion, back-up and hazards will continue at this new roundabout, affecting both the A436 in a westerly direction and the Leckhampton Hill Road, in a south-westerly direction.
 - a. Although the roundabout will be free of the through-traffic on the A417, it will still be subject to the considerable, and growing, daily commuter traffic to/from Cheltenham and to/from Oxford/London direction.
 - b. The flow from the A417 exit road into this roundabout is likely to be travelling faster, and more uninterrupted, than at present and hence, more hazardous to the traffic entering the roundabout from Leckhampton Hill Road

The PC therefore, requests that a detailed study is carried out on projected traffic volumes and flows at the roundabout and designs in mitigating solutions.

2. Likely increased speeds on the A436, due to freer flowing traffic travelling east from the new roundabout, will create greater hazards for dwellings, other premises and the Cowley/Ullenwood crossroads on the A436.

The PC requests that the current speed limit of 50 mph is reduced to 40 mph, particularly between east of Oxford Cottages and the new roundabout.

3. Ullenwood/Cowley cross roads on A436. Already a dangerous junction, there will be increased hazard, due to increased speeds from an easterly direction and increase in traffic volumes over long term.

The PC believes that this junction requires traffic light control or a roundabout. It requests that thorough investigation of this crossroads junction is carried out and appropriate mitigating solutions implemented.

4. Major footpath/track/bridleway (Gloucestershire Way) from Ullenwood/Cowley junction to Shab Hill radio masts and beyond. This path will be severed by the new A417 road. Although the scheme indicates that the Gloucestershire Way will be diverted to run north of the new A417 to Crickley Hill, this will be a major diversion from the current path. The next crossing place of the new road will be at the Cowley Lane Overbridge. In practical terms, to cross as near as possible on foot to the current Rushwood – Shab Hill path, it would appear that pedestrians/horse-riders will have to negotiate the proposed new A436/A417 road junction and underpass at Shab Hill, in order to get across the new link road.

The PC therefore, requests that bespoke, safe pedestrian and horse paths are created alongside the road junction and through the underpass, enabling minimally diverted travel from the Rushwood Kennels/Ullenwood/Coberley direction to Shab Hill.

5. Noise pollution. There is concern that, with the proximity of the new route of the A417 to the villages of Coberley, Ullenwood and Cowley, noise pollution could be a result of the project. The PC therefore, requests that full studies are carried out on potential noise impact and that Highways England sets out proposals to mitigate noise pollution through the topography of the scheme (cuttings), road surfacing, landscaping (substantial tree-planting).
6. Flooding on Leckhampton Hill Road. When there is heavy rain, there is flooding on the Leckhampton Hill Road, to the north of the entrance to Crickley Hill Country park (it is the run off from the track that goes up the side of the field). The PC asks that Highways England or Gloucestershire County Council advise what measures are being put in place to prevent further flooding from the run-off from the new A436 stretch, which will run from the A417 junction to the new roundabout and round onto the Leckhampton Hill road.