

Brierley Hill Area Committee – 9th March 2006

Report of the Director of the Urban Environment

Proposed Junction Improvement – High Street / Brierley Hill Road, Wordsley

Purpose of Report

1. To report the results of public consultation and to seek Committee's views regarding the proposed junction improvement.

Background

2. The A491 High Street, Wordsley at its junction with Brierley Hill Road is included in the Council's Capital programme with a start programmed for 2006/07.
3. The junction suffers from excessive queuing and delays, particularly to southbound traffic in the AM peak and northbound traffic in the PM peak. The scheme layout, as shown on Drawing No.HD/1286/001 attached in appendix A was subject to a public consultation exercise in November/December 2005.
4. The results of the public consultation exercise were generally very positive and are shown in detail in Appendix B attached.
5. In light of the public consultation feedback and in response to the issues raised in the safety audit, some modifications to the scheme layout are proposed.
6. The modified scheme layout is shown on Drawing No. HD/1286/2 attached as Appendix C.

Finance

7. Funding to implement these works has been identified in the Integrated Transport block of the Highways Capital Programme for 2006/2007.

Law

8. The Council is empowered to improve Highways under Section 62 of the Highways Act 1980.

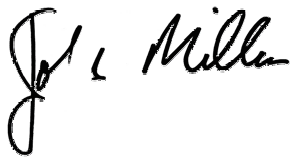
9. Section III of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive to or incidental to the discharge of its functions.

Equality Impact

10. Improved pedestrian crossing facilities will improve equality of access and support the Council's policy on equal opportunities.

Recommendation

11. It is recommended that Committee support the scheme as shown on Drawing No. HD/1286/2 attached as Appendix C.



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John B. Millar
Director of the Urban Environment

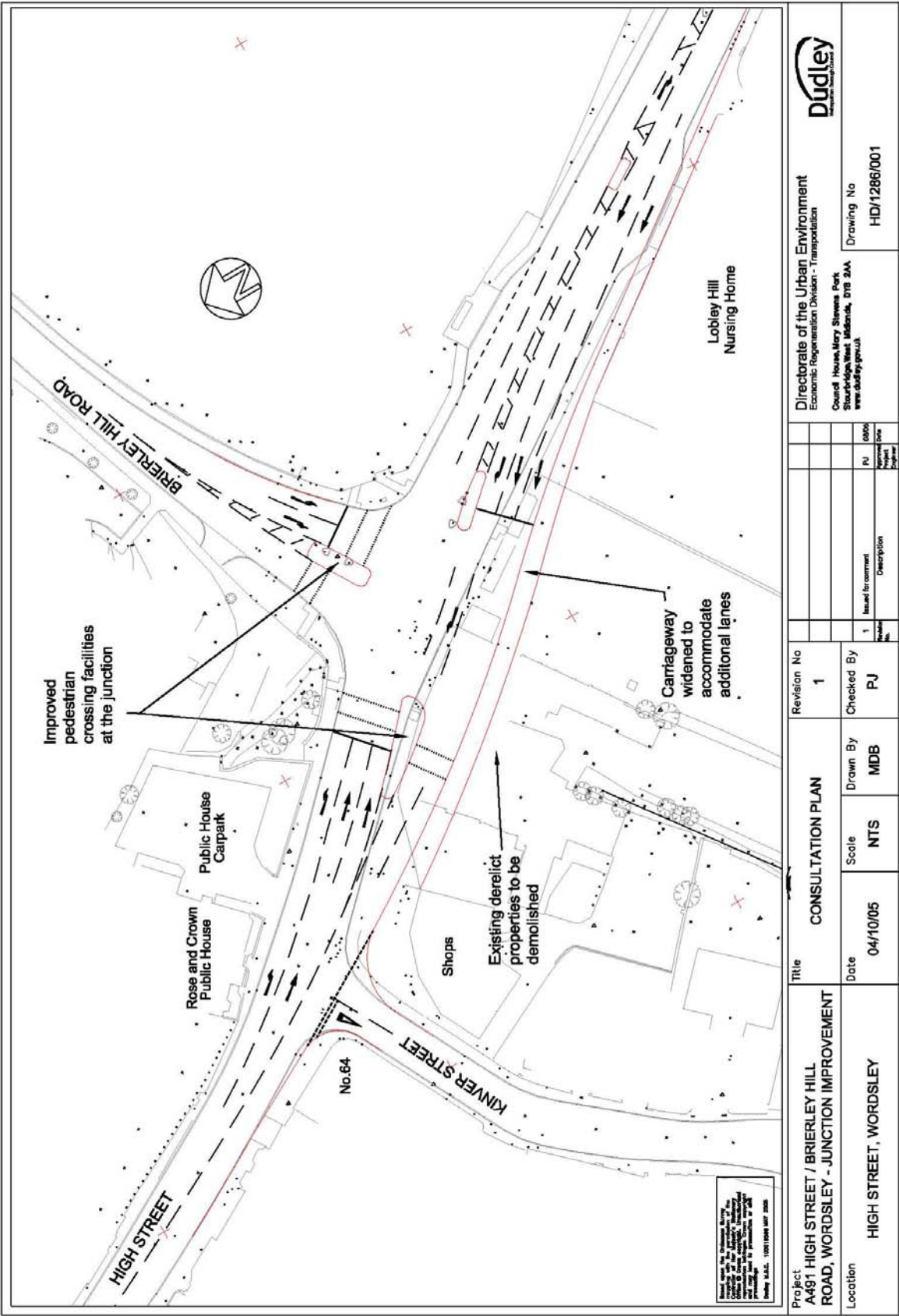
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List of Background Papers:-

- i) LTP Capital Settlement Report to Cabinet – 8th February 2006
- ii) Public & Emergency Service consultation correspondence

APPENDIX A – Proposed Junction Improvement – High St / B’Hill Rd, Wordsley
DWG No. HD/1286/001



APPENDIX B - Proposed Junction Improvement – High St / Brierley Hill Road

Summary of Consultation Feedback

In total 810 leaflets/questionnaires were distributed to local residents and any retail/commercial units in the area, including the entire Kinver St-Ryder St-Church Road-New Street residential estate. Of the 810 leaflets distributed 221 (27.3%) have been returned. West Midlands Ambulance Service, West Midlands Fire Service and West Midlands Police have all responded raising no objections. No reply has been received from Centro.

The overall findings are as follows:

Question	Yes	No	No Opinion
1) Do you agree that something needs to be done about the queues and delays that occur on the A491, particularly at B'Hill Rd / High St, Wordsley ?	208 (94%)	7 (3%)	2 (1%)
2) Would you support the introduction of physical measures to widen the road and improve the operation of the traffic signals at the junction?	187 (85%)	22 (10%)	6 (3%)
3) Do you support the scheme shown on the attached plan?	171 (77%)	41(19%)	5(2%)

Other comments and observations received from local residents generally fell into several specific categories including:-

- (i) The proposals will make it more difficult to turn right from Kinver St because you will have to cross two lanes of traffic that are in the process of merging.

The two lanes into one short merge distance approaching Kinver St (northbound) was also identified as an issue in the Stage 1 Safety Audit. Given that the merge distance cannot be increased and the concern expressed by a number of residents that it would make exiting Kinver St more difficult the scheme has been modified such that the northbound straight ahead movement is maintained as a single lane. This will affect the efficiency of the junction but given the physical constraints of the site and the safety concerns expressed is considered the preferred solution.

- (ii) Short merge lanes will result in road rage.

As explained above, the short merge for northbound vehicles has been removed. The southbound merge has been retained as this takes place over a much longer distance, such that traffic will be in a single file before it reaches the next junction.

- (iii) Brierley Hill Road should be widened.

The scheme layout has been modified to include the widening of Brierley Hill Road to provide 2 lanes over a greater distance. However, a small part of the land required to achieve this is in private ownership, and negotiations to secure the land required are ongoing.

- (iv) Delays at the Lawnswood Rd junction are the main problem, they cause rat-running through the Kinver St estate.

A scheme for this junction will be developed next financial year for implementation in 2007/08. Delays at Lawnswood Road are considered the main cause of the rat-

running that takes place through the Kinver St estate, and hence this issue will be considered as part of the Lawnswood Road scheme development.

APPENDIX C – Proposed Junction Improvement – High St / B’Hill Rd, Wordsley
DWG No. HD/1286/2

