

Bishopswood stretch of the B4234 incorporating Leys Hill Junction and the Village Hall/Canoe Car Park

- **Goals/Objectives**

To ensure that this stretch of road and adjoining junctions are made as safe as possible for the protection of motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike, to reduce the risk of further accidents and potential fatalities.

- **Background**

For over 10 years local residents have made representations to the WPC to improve the safety of this area. Despite concerns being raised on a regular basis, no positive changes were forthcoming.

- **A summary of the key activities over the last 5 years...**

- **November 2017 to June 2020 – Numerous meetings held** by the Leys Hill Junction Working Group, (an independent group of Leys Hill residents) exploring tactical and strategic ideas to improve safety, working collaboratively with the WPC.
- **June 2019 – Online campaign launched** to solicit wider support and feedback from local residents. See <https://www.change.org/p/herefordshire-council-make-leys-hill-junction-safer-for-all-3536fb8d-9d54-43dd-b09a-6f1de91a3d6e>. As at end August 2022, the online campaign received 123 signatures of support and 10 comments of feedback. Individual letters were hand posted to all Leys Hill residents. In addition, a notice was posted on the Bishopswood Village Hall notice board. See [Leys Hill Junction campaign letter.190610](#).
- **August 2020 – All parties onsite meeting held.** see [Leys Hill Junction.200906](#)
- **September 2020 – Response from Balfour Beatty** Senior Engineer, Ray Wallace. See [Leys Hill Junction BB email.200904](#)
- **From November 2020 to date** – This topic has featured on the agenda of all Safety and Environmental Working Group meetings.
- **February 2021 – Reply to Balfour Beatty** See [email to Ray Wallace .201209](#)
- **April 2021 – It was unanimously agreed by the Councillors**, that this topic will be retained as an agenda item on all Full Council Meetings, until such time that satisfactory safety solutions have been implemented.
- **January 2022 – WPC submitted a TRO** (Traffic Regulation Order) requesting a reduction of speed limit from 40mph to 30mph along this stretch of the B4234.
- **February 2022 – B4234 resurfaced** and white lining at Leys Hill Junction amended and centre carriageway lining removed from B4234.
Note, Phil Crossland (Herefordshire Council Service Director Highways) wrote in an email of 28th February 2022 that if the WPC felt that safety would be improved with centre white lines being replaced, Hereford Council will reimplement the white lining at no cost to the WPC. A formal vote by the WPC is yet to be held.
- **April 2022 – Update and Request for feedback issued.** See [Leys Hill update and request for feedback.2204](#). Individual letters were hand posted to all Leys Hill residents. Of the 56 Leys Hill residences, responses were received from 32. All responders were in support of the speed reduction from 40mph to 30mph with about 40% of the responders in support of replacing white lines along the B4234. In addition, notices were posted on the Bishopswood Village Hall notice board and at the Canoe Launch, with in excess of 200 signatures, to support the reduction of speed limit to 30mph.
- **July 2022 – Balfour Beatty's road layout v1. proposal received.** see [Balfour Beatty proposed road layout SF-001 v.1 Walford Road from Paul Tucker \(Balfour Beatty, Design Manager\)](#)

- **September 2022- Walford Parish Councils response** – sent to Balfour Beatty on 27th September 2022 for Paul Tucker’s consideration.
- **November 2022 - Balfour Beatty’s road layout v2. proposal received.** see Balfour Beatty proposed road layout SF-001 v.2 Walford Road from Paul Tucker (Balfour Beatty, Design Manager)
- **November 2022 – Walford Parish Councils response** - sent to Balfour Beatty on 17th November 2022 for Paul Tucker’s consideration.
- **14th December 2022 – WPC SEWG meeting held** – Leys Hill Junction was discussed
- **28th February 2023 - Balfour Beatty’s response received by email**
- **29th March 2023 – Site meeting** with Paul Tucker(Balfour Beatty, Design Manager), Nick Richmond and Bill Cansdale. The objectives of the meeting were as;
Final confirmation of Future Design
 1. Discuss having the dotted centre white lines reinstated at the 2 blind bends along the B4234 stretch - Paul Tucker advised that the HC Chief Road Safety Officer has deemed that it is safer without dotted centre lines.
 2. Consider options for making the crossing of the B4234 safer by pedestrians from Kerne Bridge to the Inn on the Wye public house. Pedestrian crossing sign agreed
 3. Confirm all signage on poles, to include existing poles and new proposed signs - These were agreed
 4. Confirm all tarmac signage - to include existing and new signs – These were agreed

Scope of Works

1. Agree a scope of works to move from current state to future state
2. Request a detailed itemised list of new products required to achieve future state
3. Request a contract cost for the implementation of the scheme

Timeline

1. When can we expect to receive the
 - a. Drawings
 - b. Scope of works
 - c. Detailed list of products
 - d. An estimated timeframe for implementation

Paul Tucker estimated that all of the above information will be sent on or before 14th April 2023.

Once received Balfour Beatty’s costing section will provide a quotation cost for implementation.

- **24th April 2023 – Email received from Balfour Beatty** confirming revised drawing has been prepared and is waiting for confirmation of approvals by Herefordshire Council prior to being sent to the Parish Council.
- **May and June 2023 – Nick chased Balfour Beatty a number of times for a response**
- **22nd June 2023 – Nick spoke to Paul Tucker who advised** that a number of the key design components (including the 25mph advisory speed limit) made by him in his proposed drawings have subsequently been overruled by HC Officers.

- **26th June 2023 WPC SEWG Meeting**– Leys Hill Junction was discussed
- **26th July 2023 - Meeting at Balfour Beatty's offices at Thorn House Hereford Attendees**
Simon Hobbs and Bruce Evans both HC Highways Officers, Paul Tucker Design Manager Balfour Beatty, Nick Richmond WPC Clerk, Simeon Cole WPC Councillor and Local Ward Councillor, Bill Cansdale, local resident.
[See Nicks note of same date](#)
- **9th October 2023 – WPC SEWG Meeting**– Leys Hill Junction was discussed
- **18th October 2023 – Email received from Paul Tucker.** [see email](#)
- **October 2023 to date - No response from Nick's numerous emails** enquiring about the results of the speed monitoring undertaken in October.