

Traffic and Network Management

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Gloucester
GL1 2TH

IMPORTANT HIGHWAYS INFORMATION

The Owner/Occupier

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Dear Owner/Occupier

Gloucestershire County Council – B4063 Cheltenham Road East/Pirton Lane Bus Stop and No Entry

You may already be aware that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) have been making improvements to the pedestrian and cycle facilities along the B4063 between Gloucester and Cheltenham. GCC is committed to providing a high quality, sustainable travel route which has significant potential for more journeys to be made by foot, bike and public transport.

By supporting local people to walk, wheel and take public transport for more journeys it is hoped this will help reduce congestion in the longer term as well as reducing the negative impacts motor traffic has on local residents.

As the improvement scheme aims to encourage the use of more sustainable modes of transport in line with the Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan 2020-2041 where greater priority is given to the movement of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport, the existing bus stop outside the ESSO garage on the B4063 Cheltenham Road East needs to be relocated to allow provision of an off-carriageway cycle track on the northern side of the junction, a salient component of the active travel scheme. The current bus stop is of poor standard and is situated in a constrained location with multiple points of conflict between different road users.

This section of the B4063 Cheltenham Road East is on a very busy bus route with the No.94 service operating at 10 minute intervals during the daytime. It has also been revealed that this bus stop is designated as a timed stop (which can have up to 10mins wait times), which allows buses to lose time if they are ahead of timetable. If the bus stop was to remain outside the ESSO garage, this timed stop would cause the B4063 Cheltenham Road East/Pirton Lane junction to be blocked if a bus did stop for a longer period of time.

Additionally, the bus stop is used by children from the local school Northwest of the B4063 Cheltenham Road East/Pirton Lane junction and during peak school times means the bus could be stopped for several minutes to pick up and drop off the school children.

Several different locations were considered to move the bus stop to within 100m of the original bus stop, however, due to Stagecoach operating EDL E400 10.9m double decker and 12m single decker buses in Gloucestershire, the close proximity of private driveways along Cheltenham Road East meant that no suitable location could be identified. This is because both bus types would overhang the gap between individual driveways rendering at least one driveway inaccessible during the bus pick up and drop offs.

It was also looked at taking the buses off the B4063 Cheltenham Road East to a new stop located in the land between Dancey Road and the B4063, but this would have meant buses crossing the busy B4063 both to enter and exit the bus stop. This was rejected under safety grounds.

Diversion of the bus route down St John Avenue was considered, but this was rejected due to the additional time it would add onto bus journeys and would take the bus route too far off commuter desire lines. The current location of the bus stop outside the Esso garage has been identified as optimum for a timed stop and works extremely well for the local school.

Removal of the right turn into Pirton Lane from B4063 Cheltenham Road East was also explored, however, this was rejected due to the high number of vehicles that currently carry out this manoeuvre which would result in a loss of vehicle route for the local community.

The only suitable location that was identified was to move the bus stop to the westside of the B4063 Cheltenham Road East/Pirton Lane junction, where the footway is extremely wide. Along with a No Entry restriction for all other traffic, this space allows for an off-carriageway bus stop clearway with its own traffic signal phase to allow local buses to pull in from the B4063 Cheltenham Road East side and leave onto the Pirton Lane side. This would also allow for buses to wait if they needed to without blocking the main carriageway.

The overarching scheme aims to improve this whole junction interface by introducing new traffic light signals integrated with improved signalised pedestrian crossings whilst providing better visibility for all road users and providing a safer junction that keeps congestion and queuing at a minimum. There is enough space to ensure your driveway is not impeded and would not fall within the extent of the No Entry restrictions, allowing you free entry and exit from your driveway.

The bus stop clearway will, however, prohibit waiting, stopping and parking on the footway adjacent to it so that no vehicles block entry and exit of the bus stop. As this land has overriding highway rights, GCC as the highway authority, have the power to propose and enforce these measures.

In order for the above to be implemented, certain legal processes and formal consultation exercises have to be followed. As your property will be directly affected by these improvements, GCC would like to make you aware that the formal public consultation is going live from **22nd February 2024** until **15th March 2024**.

Have your say

A copy of the relevant legal documents and plans may be viewed at The Map Room, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TG and Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury, GL20 5TT during their normal opening hours or online at <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tros>.

Any objections or representations to the proposal together with the grounds on which they are made must be sent in writing to the Assistant Director of Legal Services, Shire Hall, Westgate Street, Gloucester, GL1 2TG or emailed to highwayconsult@gloucestershire.gov.uk no later than the **15th March 2024**. (Please quote reference CB81046). Representations of support will also be received during this period.

PLEASE NOTE: If we do not hear from you by 15th March 2024, it will be inferred that you have no objection to the proposal and have no comments to make.

Any comments that you make concerning this proposal cannot be treated as confidential. For further details about how we deal with your comments and personal details, please go to <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/tros>.

More information on the scheme as a whole, including the latest design plans, can be found on the scheme website at www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/b4063

We look forward to working with you to create a greener Gloucestershire.

Yours faithfully,



Traffic Regulation Order Manager