

Proposal Title Lancashire County Council

Legal Reference: LSG4/894.19848/AFR

Statement of Reasons

The purpose of the proposed restrictions are to support the improved amenity in Nelson Town Centre, with improved pedestrian and cycle access and linkage across Nelson. All the proposals will work together to create a safer environment for pedestrians, cyclists, and vulnerable users. It is hoped this will give confidence to encourage more users to consider commuting via non-motorised means and this will improve health and air quality for the residents of Nelson.

Following formal consultation one objection was received relating to the proposed new parallel crossings.

The Main concerns raised by the objectors are as follows:

- Point 1

Making these pedestrian and cyclist crossing in front of the roundabout on Holme Street will add more traffic congestion to this area. This in turn will lead to stagnated traffic polluting the air with petrol and diesel fumes.

- Point 2

The objector has HGV's coming to site daily for both deliveries and collections. These HGV's will get stuck in the congestion on the roundabout on Holme Street. This is the main thoroughfare for traffic coming from the M65 motorway.

- Point 3

The flow of traffic at the roundabout on Holme Street is already congested due to the flow of traffic in this area, as further down the road there is a set of traffic lights controlling the traffic between Holme Street and Leeds Road. The new fast food restaurant on Holme Street has also added to traffic congestion.

- Point 4

Further investigation and studies should be made regarding the flow of traffic before starting these traffic modifications to both Holme Street, Sagar Street and Netherfield Road.

- Point 5

Making cyclist crossings in this area seems rather a large waste of funding and time as the people of Nelson mainly travel by car, bus or train or walk.

Officer Comments

Points 1, 2, 3 and 4 relate to concerns regarding the negative effect the proposals will have on traffic congestion. Extensive traffic surveys and modelling have been carried out in relation to the entire Accessible Nelson project, of which the advertised proposals form a part. This includes traffic modelling of the Sagar Street, Broadway and Holme Street mini roundabout. The traffic modelling results show that the proposed layout does not reduce existing vehicle capacity. The highway network should cater for all users and the proposed layout has been designed to benefit pedestrians and cyclists and encourage modal shift.

With regard to point 5, the proposed parallel crossings are not intended exclusively for the use of cyclists, they are also available for use by pedestrians. The proposed crossings will therefore greatly improve accessibility for both of these vulnerable road user groups.