

7th January 2015

Department: Regeneration, Housing & Resources
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Dear David,

Re: Response to Copthorne Roundabout and Windsor Road widening schemes

Thank you for sharing the responses regarding the A355 Copthorne Roundabout and A332 Windsor Road improvement schemes and their potential impacts on the Upton Court area.

Please note below my response to your concerns raised regarding congestion, costs and cycling provision.

Congestion

Journey times are expected to improve as a result of the road widening elements of the schemes. This will improve traffic flow although there may not be an obvious visible reduction in traffic.

Congestion is one of the biggest causes of air and noise pollution. Relieving traffic congestion and reducing stop-start traffic will also have a beneficial effect on air quality. Therefore this will result in a reduced exposure to the pollution produced on the road network for all road users and the local community.

Costs

The estimated cost for the A355 scheme is £5.5 million with a further £5 million for the A332 scheme. The full details of costs and modelling information can be found online using the following links:

A355 Copthorne Roundabout Scheme -

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/parking-travel-and-roads/a355-tuns-lane-route-enhancement.aspx>

A332 Windsor Road Scheme -

<http://www.slough.gov.uk/parking-travel-and-roads/a332-windsor-road-route-enhancement.aspx>

Cycling Provisions

The introduction of an additional traffic lane will increase the capacity of the network on both the A355 and the A332. A separate Non-Motorised User Audit has not yet been carried out because the design team were aware of the existing extensive network of traffic free cycle

routes, 20mph zones and on-carriageway cycle facilities in these areas of the town. Slough Borough Council would like to encourage cyclists to make better use of these routes and will be promoting them in conjunction with the main scheme works. Also, providing dedicated cycle lanes on the A332 and A355 would have reduced capacity at the junctions thereby reducing the overall effectiveness of the schemes. The aim of these works is to increase the capacity on the network and to reduce delays and journey times.

Property Value

With regards to your concern about the scheme causing a fall in property value, we believe that the opposite may be true. This is commonly the case when improved transport links are introduced to an area. For example, the Crossrail project expects to add £5.5 billion to the value of residential and commercial real estate. The two schemes (A355 and A332) are expected to have a similar effect on property value in Slough.

We also believe that these schemes will contribute positively to the local communities through which they run as they will be part of a rapid, low carbon route to Heathrow Airport and to Slough town centre. This will help to improve and support the economical and environmental health of the entire borough.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further queries or would like to discuss any of the above.

Yours sincerely

Eric Stevens
Assistant Transport Planner

Cc:
Savio DeCruz, Acting Head of Transport
Lynsey Brookfield, Acting Team Leader of Road Safety