

DARBY'S LANE BETWEEN NEW INN JUNCTION AND TRIGON ROAD FOOTBRIDGE

Responses to issues raised - TCF Consultation 2021

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Context

BCP Council, on behalf of Dorset Council and BCP Council, ran a consultation on the proposed changes and designs of the Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) programme. This consultation ran from 24 February – 31 March 2021.

This report details responses to issues raised by respondents to the proposals along Darby's Lane on the Poole Town Centre to / from Merley route. It specifically covers the section between the New Inn Junction and the Trigon Road Footbridge.

More details on the proposed improvements and the insight report summarising the outcome of the consultation for these sub-sections can be found on the [Transforming Travel website](#).

Responses to issues

We have considered all comments received through the consultation process, and below we have summarised the key themes that emerged from responses to the open questions within the online questionnaire, as well as received letters and emails.

The table below sets out our responses to the most frequently recurring themes that emerged through the analysis. The full frequency showing the number of times each code description was used, as well as example comments, can be found in the insight report mentioned previously.

Comments were also raised through other channels, including social media, during the process. In the table below, we have also sought to address pertinent matters received through these channels that necessitated a response

Theme	Nature of comments received	BCP / Dorset Council Response
General agreement	Agreement with proposals/positive comments	<p>We welcome these comments in support of the scheme. They have been noted as part of the process to determine the proposals taken forward.</p> <p>From November 2023, works are planned to start on the following improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening of shared use path and vegetation clearance leading to Trigon Bridge. Introduction of double yellow lines and dropped kerbs to improve access to the shared path. • Installation of a raised table across the Darbys Lane/ Heath Avenue/ Popes Road junction to help lower vehicle speeds. Widening of footways and introduction of uncontrolled crossings on all arms of the junction to make it safer and easier for pedestrians to navigate the junction. • New wayfinding signage installed along the along the length of the route. • Installation of a raised table and parallel crossing on the eastern arm of the Darbys Lane/ Dorchester Road junction to encourage lower vehicle speeds and provide a separate space for pedestrians and cyclists. Installation of a small section of cycle lane on Darbys Lane to make it safer and easier for cyclists to navigate the junction. • Footway widening near Oakdale Community Park to install uncontrolled crossings to make it safer and easier for pedestrians to cross the road and encourage lower vehicle speeds.
	Re-balances the priorities towards people rather than cars	<p>Some elements of the proposals remain subject to a separate legal process, and a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is being advertised and consulted on until 21 July 2023 at https://haveyoursay.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/ outlining the following changes.</p> <p>Double yellow lines and raised tables at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junction of Darbys Lane/ Heath Avenue/ Popes Road • Junction of Darbys Lane/ Dorchester Road <p>Double yellow lines at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two new uncontrolled crossing points near Oakdale Community Park

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern end of Trigon Road <p>Parallel crossing on a raised table at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorchester Road, on the eastern arm of junction with Darby's Lane
General disagreement	Waste of money	<p>BCP Council and Dorset Council were jointly awarded £79m by the Department for Transport (DfT) through its Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) scheme. This grant plus further local contributions, means the councils have more than £100m which is ring-fenced to specifically invest in public and sustainable transport infrastructure.</p> <p>The purpose of the TCF programme is to broaden the travel options available across the south east Dorset area by investing in improvements to walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure. These improvements are aimed at those aged 8-80 years old, ensuring that all that want to cycle and walk around the region feel safe to do so.</p> <p>By encouraging more walking and cycling, particularly for shorter journeys, and increasing bus usage in the area, we can help to reduce congestion on our already busy road network and as a result, we'll also help to improve air quality and create safer, more pleasant places in which to live, work and do business.</p>
	Not needed	
	Cyclists will still use the roads	
Against installation of planter box	Will increase congestion and journey times	<p>A planter box was installed to reinforce vehicle restrictions introduced between Darby's Lane and Wimborne Road. This was introduced outside of the TCF programme and the decision to make this permanent can be found here. The vehicle restriction has since been incorporated into the new layout at Wimborne Road and the planter relocated.</p>
	Increased levels of pollution	
	Emergency vehicle access	<p>Key stakeholders, including the emergency services, have been kept informed of the programme and had the opportunity to provide their feedback during the consultation.</p>
Safety concerns	There is a need for the maintenance of paths and roads	<p>Where local issues have been identified, such as flooding on the paths or potholes, we will seek to rectify these as part of the scheme delivery. Once complete, the routes would be managed within BCP Council's ongoing maintenance programme.</p>
	Shared use provision	<p>There is not enough space to provide separated cycle tracks for the whole route of Darby's Lane.</p>

		<p>According to the Government's guidance on cycling, as detailed in Local Transport Note (LTN) 1/20, although shared use is not always the preferred option, it is appropriate where it will help achieve the continuity of a cycle route and not compromise an otherwise good network. We will be widening the pavement and installing new signage to further reduce the risk of collision, providing adequate space for both pedestrians and cyclists along the route.</p> <p>Recent changes to the Highway Code establish a clear hierarchy which places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision at the top of the hierarchy. It does not remove the need for everyone to behave responsibly. According to this, cyclists have a responsibility to reduce danger to pedestrians, mostly applicable on shared use paths.</p>
	Roads in the area are narrow	<p>In order to allow the widening of the shared path and to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, double yellow lines are proposed in the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junction of Darbys Lane and Dorchester Road • Junction of Darbys Lane, Heath Avenue and Popes Road • At the location of two new uncontrolled crossing points near Oakdale Community Park • Northern end of Trigon Road <p>These elements of the proposals remain subject to a separate legal process and a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is being advertised and consulted on until 21 July at https://haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ outlining the following changes.</p>
	Trigon Bridge feels unsafe	<p>We plan to clear vegetation and to widen the shared path that leads to Trigon Bridge and to introduce double yellow lines and dropped kerbs to improve access to this path. These improvements have been designed to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians using the bridge. The bridge itself is being considered as part of a different phase of the works.</p>
Design comment/ suggestion	Need to add wayfinding signs	<p>We will be providing new wayfinding signage to local destinations and signposting routes via residential areas where appropriate.</p>

	Speed limit restriction should be introduced	<p>The proposals suggest introducing raised tables to calm traffic speeds and to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety at the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junction of Darbys Lane and Dorchester Road • Junction of Darbys Lane, Heath Avenue and Popes Road <p>This is believed to be a more effective way of reducing traffic speeds than lowering the speed limit.</p> <p>These elements of the proposals remain subject to a separate legal process and a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) will be advertised and consulted on from 30 June 2023 at https://haveyoursay.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ outlining the following changes.</p>
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