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New Consultations to be tabled at Planning, Infrastructure and Transport Committee Meeting 02/12/2024

4. Consultations – including any applications or consultations received after the publication of the Agenda that must be considered before the date of the next meeting. Any additional items that will be considered will be published on the day of the meeting on the Campbell Park Community Council website.

a. Planning Applications

xiv. **PLN/2024/2493**

The erection of a micro-energy storage facility

Verge at Duckworth Court, Oldbrook Boulevard, Oldbrook, Milton Keynes

Deadline: 30 December Planning Officer: Nathan Makwana

5. General Consultations

i. Road safety scheme at the H7 Chaffron Way/Phoenix Drive junction

Committee are invited to receive an update and report on the recent MK City Council consultation for the road safety scheme at the H7 Chaffron Way/Phoenix Drive junction.

Consultation Result:

Due to the high number of objections for the proposed signalised junction, MKCC will no longer be going forward with this proposal. Instead MKCC will be looking at alternative options to improve road safety at this junction, which will include the following:

- Reducing the speed limit on the H7
- Signing and lining improvements
- New vehicle activated junction warning signs on both approaches.

T Jones - Committee Clerk

2 December 2024



Informal Consultation Report

H7 Chaffron Way, Phoenix Drive Signalised Junction

On the 16th of September 2024 the Council uploaded a proposal onto the Councils website for a proposed Signalised Junction at the H7 Chaffron Way/Phoenix Drive junction.

Start: 16 September 2024

End: 25 October 2024

Period: 40 days

Road safety scheme H7 Chaffron Way/Phoenix Drive junction - consultation Start Date: 16 September 2024 End Date: 25 October 2024 Contact: Road Safety (Highways) Email: road.safety@milton-keynes.gov.uk Phone: 01908 252353



Representations (Response received)

The Council received 36 representations during statutory consultation (as shown in Annex A to this report.

17 objections to the proposals

07 in support of the proposals

12 commented on the proposals.

Most of the representations received were in favour of a right turn ban in and out of Phoenix Drive instead of a new signalised junction.

Objections & Comments (In summary)

Below is a summary of the reasons why 15 representatives objected (partly) to the proposed extension and traffic calming features:

My comments/questions are - Would these be full time lights? The problem at this location is only really at school/college start and finish times, but full-time lights would disrupt traffic flow along the H7 24/7.

Could the scheme not be for no right turns out of/into Phoenix Drive? Wouldn't that be more cost effective for ongoing maintenance as well?

2 As a suggestion can you not just remove right hand turns?

Similar done between Two Mile Ash and Great Holm - Danstead Way H4

Much better than traffic lights!

3 Please don't put traffic lights on a grid road!
Instead why not use the type of restrictions that were put in place to prevent right turns on H4 Dansteed Way at the junctions with Two Mile Ash and Great Holm. That way the traffic on H7 will keep flowing.



	Please will you also consider the same kind of restrictions further along H7 at the junction with Strudwick Drive into Oldbrook, as there have been numerous accidents and near misses at that junction.
4	Why use a traffic light system when an easier option would be to close off the right turns into/out of the estate? The right turns have been closed for Fishermead and Springfield on the V8, the V6 into Oldbrook and Winter Hill making those wishing to enter those estates travel to the roundabout and return down the same road to enter, why could this not be used for the H7 along the whole length thus removing the issue further up with the entry into Oldbrook and the Leadenhall entrance?
5	This will back log traffic up phoenix drive, coming out of St Paul's and mk college and grid lock the roundabout which splits traffic to college too. Why you not considering other traffic problems this will cause
	While this may be the cheapest option this will cause make things more difficult, due to back up traffic on phoenix drive roundabout which will result in more students late getting to education both sides and been collected after wards too
	A better option is either a roundabout also making phoenix drive a one way system when coming out from St Paul's car park, or also making h7 better access when leaving phoenix drive so merge better
6	This will create chaos in terms of traffic build up, it already takes 30 minutes to get from Grange Farm to St Paul's. I am against this formally.
7	Whilst I understand and respect the need to increase the safety of the junction, traffic lights will cause huge delay and backed up traffic at the busiest times of the day.
	This could block roundabouts and cause huge disruption.
	Surely in the spirit of MKs original design, a small roundabout would be better. It will cost more but be far less disruptive in the long run.
	Please consider the flow of traffic as well as safety.
8	Please see this as comments for the consultation. I am against the introduction of lights, as this will increase traffic in surrounding roads as people avoid the lights, as well as long queues going back to and affecting the roundabout. Traffic already queues down this road at peak times affecting both the Leadenhall roundabout and Eaglestone roundabout, and also around school times. The better proposal would be to block the right turn out of both Phoenix Drive and Rainbow drive onto



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	a grid road. This has already been performed on many roads across MK successfully, including recently on Dansteed Way for Kensington Drive and The High Street at Great Holm/Two Mile Ash.
9	I object to this it will cause long delays on the road, I would rather see a no right turn out of Phoenix Drive, and no right turn into Phoenix Drive from the H7 It works well at great Holme and traffic keeps moving
10	
	I believe the proposed solution is unworkable and only addresses part of the problem and will cause more congestion.
	Also is it proposed to have the lights operational 24/7 or just when the school arrival and departure times? 24/7 operation is unnecessary for the volume of traffic outside school run hours.
	The major concern is it will cause tailbacks on Grafton Street, in both directions, particularly back to the Leadenhall Roundabout.
	This so called solution also doesn't address the issue of traffic congestion at the Chaffron Way / Rainbow Drive junction.
	A more workable solution would be to have no right turning from both Phoenix Drive and Rainbow Drive.
11	No lights please, traffic is bad enough and this will slow it further.
	Reduce to 40mph
	·
	Left turn only
12	No this proposal should not go ahead as it would cause massive tailbacks on Chaffron Way. A better solution would be to make it a left turn only on to Chaffron Way then the traffic could use the roundabout to turn back down Chaffron Way.
13	Whilst I support the need for improving the safety of this junction, this should be by extending the slip roads and preventing right turning traffic (i.e. force all right turning traffic to go round either Leadenhall or Eaglestone roundabouts). This would improve safety of the junction whilst maintaining traffic flow.
	I do not support traffic lights as this will be detrimental to the flow of traffic.
14	I would like to strongly object to the proposed traffic lights installation on H7 Chaffron Way/Phoenix Drive junction. While there is no denial this junction is of safety concern now, the signals would create more traffic problems than we have now. The simplest and cheapest solution is to install a traffic sign forbidding RIGHT turn from Phoenix Drive to the H7 Chaffron Way.



15	With regards to the above proposal I do not believe traffic lights will help with the flow of traffic. I think instead a no right turn from this junction will improve road safety whilst keeping traffic moving
16	I'm really pleased this is being looked into. I think there is no need for Traffic lights. I think it should be left turn only. Three reasons for this- one it will be cheaper for the Tax Payer and secondly it will be a quick and easy fix. Finally, I think traffic lights will cause congestion.
17	I use this junction daily and feel that this would cause a massive bottle neck. Would a better suggestion be a left turn only?

Officer response (to the objections)

Right turn bans in and out of Phoenix Drive is not a workable solution, due to the knock-on factors this will have to other junctions within close proximity of Phoenix Drive. A high number of motorists would instead use the Rainbow Drive junction, which would increase traffic flow along Rainbow Drive. Additional Road Safety issues could arise at the H7/Strudwick Drive junction as well – motorists looking to do U-turn manoeuvres.

Officer Recommendations

Due to the high number of objections for the proposed signalised junction, MKCC will no longer be going forward with this proposal. Instead MKCC will be looking at alternative options to improve road safety at this junction, which will include the following:

- Reducing the speed limit on the H7
- Signing and lining improvements
- New vehicle activated junction warning signs on both approaches.

List of annexes

Annex A – Representations

Annex B - Phoenix Drive/H7 Proposals



ANNEX A

Representations

	Representative	Received	Comments/Objection
1	Cllr	12-09-2024	In support This looks sensible to me. As you already know, most of the traffic here is caused by the three education establishments. Which would, in turn, mean a lot of children and young people travelling in the cars/buses at peak times. I am all for keeping our young people safe and I believe this scheme would help to do that.
2	Cllr	15-09-2024	In support This makes a lot of sense. Fully supported
3	Member of the Public	16-09-2024	Objection My comments/questions are - Would these be full time lights? The problem at this location is only really at school/college start and finish times, but full-time lights would disrupt traffic flow along the H7 24/7. Could the scheme not be for no right turns out of/into Phoenix Drive? Wouldn't that be more cost effective for ongoing maintenance as well?
4	Member of the Public	16-09-2024	Comments There is a possibility of rear end shunts into stationary traffic at the traffic lights by vehicles from Leadenhall Roundabout.
5	Cllr	16-09-2024	Comments I am all in favour of something being done at this junction. We have been asking for it to be made a left hand turn only for many years, my colleague has convinced me that traffic lights will be a good idea, what impact it will have on pushing traffic to the Grafton Street exit, therefore causing a severe bottle neck, remains to be seen
6	Member of the Public	22-09-2024	Objection As a suggestion can you not just remove right hand turns? Similar done between Two Mile Ash and Great Holm - Danstead Way H4 Much better than traffic lights! Thanks you!
7	Member of the Public	23-09-2024	Objection Please don't put traffic lights on a grid road!



			Instead why not use the type of restrictions that were put in place to prevent right turns on H4 Dansteed Way at the junctions with Two Mile Ash and Great Holm. That way the traffic on H7 will keep flowing. Please will you also consider the same kind of restrictions further along H7 at the junction with Strudwick Drive into Oldbrook, as there have been numerous accidents and near misses at that junction. Many thanks
8	Member of the Public	23-09-2024	Objection Why use a traffic light system when an easier option would be to close off the right turns into/out of the estate? The right turns have been closed for Fishermead and Springfield on the V8, the V6 into Oldbrook and Winter Hill making those wishing to enter those estates travel to the roundabout and return down the same road to enter, why could this not be used for the H7 along the whole length thus removing the issue further up with the entry into Oldbrook and the Leadenhall entrance? I feel the council move to traffic lights when there are better options to use, the removal of the roundabout at junction of the V6 and Avebury Boulevard and move to lights now means being sat there waiting when zero traffic on other approaches is apparent and the lights move through their cycle! - Waste of time, causes congestion and also contributes to a build up in particulates as an example of poor traffic light management IMO.
9	Campbell Park Community Council	23-09-2024	Comments I have noticed that a proposal for this junction is currently out for consultation. Do you have any more information on the proposed scheme that you are able to share with us please? I recall you previously said that traffic modelling & a safety impact report etc would be undertaken. It would be helpful to understand more about how the volume of traffic using this junction, particularly at peak college/school times, would be controlled more safely with this scheme. Also, if there is expected to be any knock-on impact to the other junctions on this section of the H7 and also the V6 roundabout. I understand that there was yet another serious accident in the last week or so at this junction, so positive action to help address this is welcomed. Is there any further update as to whether the scheme at this junction is likely to be implemented this financial year?
10	Member of the Public	24-09-2024	Comments I am pleased these considerations are being proposed. Could you please consider the turning into strudwick Drive on Oldbrook from H7 which also has a history of near misses and collisions especially at peak times. It is not an easy to turn right onto the H7 and you will regularly see issues and road rage. I believe it is dangerous and should also be considered. Maybe no right turn out of Olbrook would be helpful? All local residents will reaffirm this.
11	Member of the Public	26-09-2024	Objection Just seen ur notice of proposed traffic lights on H7 and phoenix drive, why are you only looking at half the problem and not everything, Please consider the traffic levels during school drop-off and pickup Are you joking



			This will back log traffic up phoenix drive, coming out of St Paul's and mk college and grid lock the roundabout which splits traffic to college too. Why you not considering other traffic problems this will cause While this may be the cheapest option this will cause make things more difficult, due to back up traffic on phoenix drive roundabout which will result in more students late getting to education both sides and been collected after wards too A better option is either a roundabout also making phoenix drive a one way system when coming out from St Paul's car park, or also making h7 better access when leaving phoenix drive so merge better This is just my thoughts and I know won't mean much. Good luck Thank you for reading my response to this.
12	Member of the Public	27-09-2024	I have seen the details for improvements to the H7 at the Phoenix Drive junction, and have to agree that they are a very sensible choice for that junction and well overdue. I work at St Paul's and have seen first hand the accidents and bumps that occur there on a weekly basis. Any improvements for public safety have to be good.
13	Member of the Public	27-09-2024	As an employee of St Paul's Catholic school I use this junction every day. I agree with this proposal and believe this will benefit everyone. It will also make entering Phoenix Drive that much safer and relieve the congestion that occurs every morning and evening.
14	Member of the Public	27-09-2024	Objection This will create chaos in terms of traffic build up, it already takes 30 minutes to get from Grange Farm to St Paul's. I am against this formally.
15	Member of the Public	27-09-2024	Objection Whilst I understand and respect the need to increase the safety of the junction, traffic lights will cause huge delay and backed up traffic at the busiest times of the day. This could block roundabouts and cause huge disruption. Surely in the spirit of MKs original design, a small roundabout would be better. It will cost more but be far less disruptive in the long run. Please consider the flow of traffic as well as safety.
16	Member of the Public	01-10-2024	In support This is a dangerous and busy junction and your proposal seems a sensible one to avoid future accidents.
17	Member of the Public	02-10-2024	Comments The proposal to add traffic lights to H7 Chaffron Way/Phoenix Drive is a good one. There have been too many near misses and serious accidents and it is a heavily used junction. However, as this the



			entrance to an estate containing four of the city's largest educational establishments (St. Paul's, MK College, MK Academy, The Tommy Flowers SCITT), please can serious consideration be given to the timings of the work? It should be carried out during the 6 weeks of the school holidays (or if it can be completed within two weeks, then over Christmas/Easter holidays) and NOT during term time as this would cause significant congestion, risk further accidents and would definitely affect the attendance, punctuality and learning of thousands of pupils.
18	Member of the Public	04-10-2024	Comments
			Thank you for your email. Having checked the link again all I can see is the proposed location of lights. Where will I find information around the intended implementation timeframe, whether of not these will be all day use lights or peak times only, if they will reflect the peak traffic times in accordance to educational establishment timings, what the intended impact will be in terms of queue times, business service, etc
19	Campbell Park	08-10-2024	Comments
	Community Council		Our Planning, Infrastructure and Transport Committee considered the road safety scheme proposal for the Phoenix Drive junction of H7 at their meeting last night. Their decision on the matter was as follows;
			As CPCC had asked MKCC to take action to address concerns about the frequency of accidents in this location, Committee welcomed MKCC's proposal and resolved to support the scheme.
			Committee resolved to further request that consideration is given to marking a yellow box in the centre of the road, to ensure traffic doesn't back-up across the road, and also to look at the feasibility of making the left turning filter lane longer.
20	Member of the Public	08-10-2024	Objection
			Please see this as comments for the consultation.
			I am against the introduction of lights, as this will increase traffic in surrounding roads as people avoid the lights, as well as long queues going back to and affecting the roundabout. Traffic already queues down this road at peak times affecting both the Leadenhall roundabout and Eaglestone roundabout, and also around school times. The better proposal would be to block the right turn out of both Phoenix Drive and Rainbow drive onto a grid road. This has already been performed on many roads across MK successfully, including recently on Dansteed Way for Kensington Drive and The High Street at Great Holm/Two Mile Ash.
21	Council Manager	08-10-2024	In support
	, and the second		This proposal was discussed at the Planning, Licensing and Development committee last night.
			I am pleased to say that the committee was supportive of this approach and welcomes action to reduce the risks associated with the road in its current state.
			On query was as to whether the traffic signals will operate at all times, or be linked to higher traffic levels?
			Otherwise, all good.
			Many thanks
22	Member of the Public	09-10-2024	In support
		2 - 3 - 1	I support the proposed scheme at this location which I feel will make the junction safer and improve traffic flow without causing unnecessary delay on the grid road system.
23	Member of the Public	09-10-2024	Comments
			Whilst I agree a change is necessary, there are some additional factors I would like to understand and explore.
			1. Has the provision/introduction of bus routes that provide a practical and safe option for children and young people been investigated? The area isn't served by a network of bus routes that reaches the college and residential areas at the right, and reasonable time scale with nearby drop off and collection points at bus stops. This would significantly reduce the amount of traffic.



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			2. When would these works occur? The level of disruption would be pretty significant. I can't believe the problem and volume of traffic hasn't been managed until now. Not forgetting there is no issue between 9.15am and 3pm. Just the peak times, so will the traffic lights be necessary all day, everyday?
			3. What other options have been explored aside from traffic lights? One way system around the back of the college our via the leisure centre?
			4. I wonder how this will impact the dual carriageway which suffers from being blocked from the shopping centre towards Bletchley? Much like the lights with the grid from Bletchley up to the H8, you can't get up the hill because the traffic pours out and you can't enter the grid, therefore the traffic doesn't move. Those exit the side road and those on the main road stay still. Not well executed at all.
			5. Just to add MK Connect is expensive and uses a payment service which has a 1 star review which concerns me greatly. At £4.10 per trip, a taxi cost me £5.45, this is another reason why I would suspect there are so many more cars on the road.
			Ultimately the traffic lights aren't going to solve the issue of volume and bad driving. Everyday there are people who park on the roundabout to drop off and people who pull out without looking. Making the space accessible to those who don't drive - the students is the solution.
24	Member of the Public	09-10-2024	Objection
			I object to this it will cause long delays on the road, I would rather see a no right turn out of Phoenix Drive, and no right turn into Phoenix Drive from the H7
			It works well at great Holme and traffic keeps moving
25	Member of the Public	09-10-2024	Comments
			I welcome your proposal of installing traffic lights at this junction.
			I hope you reduce the speed limit on all grid roads where there are junctions to either 40 on single carriageways and 50 on dual carriageways to add traffic to join the roads from the different estates.
			We must think of all users who use Milton Keynes roads including visitors and less confident drivers.
			It is negligent of the local authority having national speed limits on the roads which have estate roads joining them.
			I wish the council could be more proactive with road safety in our great city rather than reactionary.
			Thanks for your attention to this matter and I would like a response to your thoughts of the excessive speeds which are a huge contributing factor to serious accidents and why speeds have not been reduced at junctions.
26	Member of the Public	09-10-2024	Objection
			I believe the proposed solution is unworkable and only addresses part of the problem and will cause more congestion.
			Also is it proposed to have the lights operational 24/7 or just when the school arrival and departure times? 24/7 operation is unnecessary for the volume of traffic outside school run hours.
			The major concern is it will cause tailbacks on Grafton Street, in both directions, particularly back to the Leadenhall Roundabout.
			This so called solution also doesn't address the issue of traffic congestion at the Chaffron Way / Rainbow Drive junction.
			A more workable solution would be to have no right turning from both Phoenix Drive and Rainbow Drive.



			Even better would be a police presence occasionally to do something about the terrible standard of driving from a significant minority of parents doing the school run who think they have a God given right to pull out when they want to with total disregard for other road users.
			I realise responding to this "consultation" actually a facile exercise because once the planners think they have a solution their attitude is damn the impact on other road users we're too arrogant to give way, as we've seen elsewhere in the city.
27	Member of the Public	09-10-2024	Objection
			No lights please, traffic is bad enough and this will slow it further.
			Reduce to 40mph
			Left turn only
28	Member of the Public	09-10-2024	Objection
			No this proposal should not go ahead as it would cause massive tailbacks on Chaffron Way. A better solution would be to make it a left turn only on to Chaffron Way then the traffic could use the roundabout to turn back down Chaffron Way.
29	Member of the Public	09-10-2024	Objection
			Whilst I support the need for improving the safety of this junction, this should be by extending the slip roads and preventing right turning traffic (i.e. force all right turning traffic to go round either Leadenhall or Eaglestone roundabouts). This would improve safety of the junction whilst maintaining traffic flow.
			I do not support traffic lights as this will be detrimental to the flow of traffic.
30	Member of the Public	10-10-2024	Objection
			I would like to strongly object to the proposed traffic lights installation on H7 Chaffron Way/Phoenix Drive junction. While there is no denial this junction is of safety concern now, the signals would create more traffic problems than we have now.
			The simplest and cheapest solution is to install a traffic sign forbidding RIGHT turn from Phoenix Drive to the H7 Chaffron Way. In this way all the sleepy mothers and irritating cab drivers would be forced to join the traffic towards Leadenhall roundabout and not create problems looking for traffic gaps in both direction. Simple one-way system will do wonders!
			Stopping morning rush hour traffic going freely from Leadenhall roundabout towards Eaglestone roundabout will create HUGE jams on Chaffron way around the MK Bowl, Furzton and Emmerson valley.
31	Member of the Public	09-10-2024	Objection
			With regards to the above proposal I do not believe traffic lights will help with the flow of traffic. I think instead a no right turn from this junction will improve road safety whilst keeping traffic moving
32	Member of the Public	10-10-2024	Comments
			Hi there, I am writing because I want to have my say on the proposed plans on the Chaffron Way/Phoenix Drive Junction.
			I am a college student and I travel by car and I often use this junction to go to college. What I can say that this junction is an absolute nuisance in terms of traffic and pulling out of the junction is very unsafe. I've spotted several collisions and near misses on this road and the problem on this junction needs to be sorted out.
			What I could suggest is adding another lane for through traffic and a lane for traffic turning into Phoenix Drive from the H7 after Leadenhall Roundabout, clearer road markings and a traffic light system. This will hopefully significantly reduce the number of collisions and near misses on the road.
			This then brings me to my next point, between Phoenix Drive and Rainbow Drive, consider also reducing the speed limit or putting a roundabout on the Rainbow Drive Junction.



			I have also noticed a lot of traffic during peak times on Leadenhall Roundabout which as a result, makes me late for college. This may need to be reviewed.
			I would also suggest reintroducing bus services on this section of Chaffron Way to get more people to take the bus thus reducing the traffic on the H7 during peak hours.
			I hope that my suggestions can be taken into consideration and I hope that the junction can be sorted out. I look forward to hearing from you soon and hopefully the changes to the road layout will be made sooner.
33	Member of the Public	10-10-2024	Objection
			I'm really pleased this is being looked into.
			I think there is no need for Traffic lights. I think it should be left turn only. Three reasons for thisone it will be cheaper for the Taxpayer and secondly it will be a quick and easy fix. Finally, I think traffic lights will cause congestion.
			Please, please do not commence any work during term time as it will be exceptionally disruptive to learners and staff at all 3 educational establishments. College normally finishes at the beginning of July and returns first week of September.
34	Member of the Public	11-10-2024	Comments
			I am so pleased to see you are looking to make this road safer.
			I travel to work along this road every morning and it is scary at school drop off time. I always think cars should not be able to turn right out of that turning as it is so dangerous with cars queuing in all directions.
			I can see you are considering traffic lights and I believe just do whatever you can as soon as you can to make it safe.
			Has any consideration been given to making the road 40mph? The junction from Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook turning right to join Chaffron way can be just as tricky, if the road was slower it would be safer.
35	Member of the Public	12-10-2024	Comments
			As an Oldbrook Ward member on Campbell Park Community Council I fully support these proposals.
			I would like to place on record that my comments are my own personal views, rather than the collective view of Campbell Park Community Council.
			However, I cannot understand for the life of me why there is not the same proposal for the junction of Strudwick Drive Oldbrook and the H7, Chaffron Way, which has had far more accidents.
			If Milton Keynes City Council cannot afford this in this year's budget, can it not be included for consideration in next year's budget process?
			In the meantime, can a no right turn traffic calming measure not be put in place for the junction of Strudwick Drive Oldbrook and the H7, Chaffron Way?
			Also, I would have thought most of the accidents that have occurred were caused by speeding so why is there not a proposal to make the V7 Chaffron Way a 40mph zone?
			I look forward to receiving your earliest reply.
36	Member of the Public	14-10-2024	Objection I use this junction daily and feel that this would cause a massive bottle neck. Would a better suggestion be a left turn only?



ANNEX B

