
Meeting: Traffic Management Meeting
Date: 28 February 2017
Subject: Mill Road, Cranfield – Consider Objections to Proposed Raised Table
Report of: Paul Mason, Assistant Director Highways
Summary: This report seeks the approval of the Executive Member for Community Services for the construction of a raised table in Mill Road, Cranfield.

RECOMMENDATION:-

That the proposal to construct a raised table in Mill Road, Cranfield be implemented as published.

Contact Officer: Gary Baldwin
gary.baldwin@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: Cranfield and Marston Moretaine
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS
<p>Council Priorities: The proposal will improve road safety, traffic management and the amenity in the affected road.</p> <p>Financial: The works are being funded under section 278 associated with an adjacent residential development.</p> <p>Legal: None from this report.</p> <p>Risk Management: None from this report.</p> <p>Staffing (including Trades Unions): None from this report.</p>

Equalities/Human Rights:

None from this report.

Community Safety:

None from this report.

Sustainability:

None from this report.

Background and Information

1. The Council has published a proposal to construct a raised table at the junction of Mill Road and the access road to a new residential development. The feature would lower traffic speeds in the vicinity of the newly constructed junction, thereby improving road safety. The location is in a residential area, so would have wider benefits in moderating traffic speeds and creating a safer environment.
2. The proposal was formally advertised by public notice in January 2017. Consultations were carried out with the emergency services and other statutory bodies, Cranfield Council and the Ward Members. Residents located in the areas where restrictions are proposed were individually consulted by letter and notices were posted on street.

Representations and Officer Responses

3. A total of 6 representations, including from Cllr Susan Clark and Cranfield Parish Council, were received in response to the proposals, all of which are objections. These are included in Appendix C and the main points raised are as follows:-
 - a) The raised feature will force drivers to decelerate on approach and accelerate away, which will raise noise levels. This will be exacerbated when the new development is complete and more traffic is using Mill Road. These changes in speed will also raise exhaust gas levels.
 - b) There are already three raised tables, so a further one is not required and parked cars already slow traffic down.
 - c) The homes adjacent to this stretch of road are located below road level and already suffer from flooding. Footway works made the problems worse and the raising the height of the road by installing a raised junction will increase the risk.
 - d) The increase in road height will make it even harder to access/egress adjacent properties on the east side of Mill Road, particularly with a caravan.
 - e) Changes to the road signage and to the road surface would be preferred to reduce vehicle speeds.

4. Officer response:-
- a) It is likely that some drivers will decelerate and accelerate rapidly when negotiating raised features. However, the raised feature is expected to result in an overall lowering of speeds, which is likely to reduce noise levels. The properties on Mill Road are generally set back from the carriageway, so any increase in noise and pollution levels is likely to be negligible.
 - b) The existing raised features are located at either end of Mill Road with a considerable length between the raised zebra and the Crane Way junction. Parked cars do help to slow traffic, but during the working day the parking is relatively light. Mill Road is straight which itself encourages higher speeds.
 - c) The existing highway drainage system is to be improved and additional gullies provided. There will be no additional impermeable area which will drain to private properties as a result of this scheme.
 - d) The gradients involved do not appear particularly steep and it is unlikely that an increase of 75mm, which effectively takes the road level to closer to the footway level will significantly alter that. The level at the back of the footways will not increase so the gradients of the private drives to the adjacent dwellings will not increase. There will be no channel located between the raised table and the kerblin which a wheel can drop into.
 - e) Raised features are deemed to be very effective at moderating traffic speeds and behaviour. The installation of signs and road surface changes are likely to have only a marginal effect, so are not an effective substitute for the proposed raised table.
5. It is felt that the proposed raised table will assist with the safe operation of the new junction and will provide wider benefits to road safety in the village. Any negative impacts are expected to be minimal.

Appendices:

Appendix A – Public notice of proposals

Appendix B – Drawing of proposals

Appendix C – Representations



PUBLIC NOTICE

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PROPOSES TO INSTALL A RAISED JUNCTION TABLE IN MILL ROAD, CRANFIELD

Notice is hereby given that Central Bedfordshire Council, in exercise of its powers under Section 90 A-I of the Highways Act 1980 and all other enabling powers, propose to construct a Raised Table Junction. These works are being promoted as part of a highway improvement scheme associated with an adjacent residential development. The scheme is intended to reduce traffic speeds and create a safer environment for all road users

A Raised Junction Table at a nominal height of 75mm, approximately 30 metres long and extending approximately 12 metres into the new side road, including ramps, across the full width of the road is proposed to be sited at the following location:-

Mill Road, Cranfield centred at a point approximately 75 metres south-west of junction with Longborns.

Further Details may be examined during normal office hours at the address shown below, viewed online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/publicstatutorynotices or tel. 0300 300 5003.

Comments should be sent in writing to the Traffic Management team at the address below or e-mail traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk by 3 February 2017.

Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford SG17 5TQ

Marcel Coiffait
Director of Community Services

12 January 2016

Appendix C

As one of the ward Councillors for the Cranfield and Marston ward I OBJECT to this proposal for the following reasons:

1. Mill Road already has 3 raised tables in it - one at the junction with the High Street, one associated with the nearby zebra crossing, and one associated with the roundabout at the junction with Crane Way. A further raised table is not required.
2. Traffic is already slowed in Mill Road with the parked cars, which pretty much line the road. I don't believe there is a speeding issue in Mill Road.
3. At a recent public meeting organised by the Parish Council for Bloor to update residents on progress on the Mill Road development and attended by about 40 residents in Mill Road much concern was expressed about the prospect of a further raised table. The reasons are: Residents are concerned that another raised table will increase the risk of flooding, as was the case during the June 2016 floods on the High Street in Cranfield. Residents also do not see the need for a further table, for the reasons outlined above.

Please take these comments into account.

Kind regards
Sue Clark
Cranfield and Marston ward.

I am writing to advise you that Cranfield Parish Council objects to the proposed highway junction table being constructed in Mill Lane, Cranfield. There is particular concern amongst parishioners and residents about a highway raised table exacerbating the risk of future flooding particularly of the gardens on the opposite side of Mill Road to the entrance to the new estate.

Also, as the proposed highway table is a high cost measure the Parish Council would rather see changes to highway signing and to the road surface as encouragements to reduce vehicle speeds.

With regards to the raised platform on Mill Road.

We live at number xx Mill Road, so will have the raised platform directly to the front and side of our property. My main concern is the noise of vehicles slowing down, then speeding up as they negotiate the ramp. There is also then the noise of suspension the vehicles will make while going up and down the ramp. This will only be exaggerated due to the increase of vehicles coming from the new 240 house development, to the side of our property as well as the front.

Will this be considered in the design to mitigate disturbance to the properties directly adjacent to the platform and access road entrance.

We wish to object to the proposed raised table in Mill Road for the following reasons:

1. Both we at xx and xx Mill Road already tend suffer flooding during heavy rain as our houses lie below the current road level. Raising it a further 3 inches will only exasperate the problem.
2. Access to and from our drive will become more difficult and dependent on the Table design may cause issues to vehicles.
3. Potential noise nuisance from vehicles hitting the raised table.
4. Additional pollution caused with vehicles slowing down and accelerating away from the table.

I wish to object the proposed raised table as set out in your letter sent to xx Mill road Cranfield.

My objects are 1 On health ground

In that at present vehicles travel along Mill road at 30MPH, at this speed they are in a high gear and therefore emitting minimum exhaust gas.

With the proposal all cars including the minimum extra 1000 movements in and out of the new housing site will be forced to slow down and in many cases I suspect brake hard before then accelerating up and over the obstruction. At this point vehicles will be in a low gear with high revs causing high levels of exhaust gas, As this action will be immediately in front of our property these gasses and noise created will easily be driven to enter our property..

My objects are 2 On Environmental ground

At present surface water that should drain away is in fact travelling down our driveway this is a direct action of the works that relayed the pavements and drives in Mill road. Numbers 26-28-30 all express concern at the time, and in fact a member of your highway team visit myself on site to discuss the issue, this lead to a drain being lower by some 10mm however the real issue was the lowering of the pavement which had previously acted as a mini dam.

With your proposal the situation will in effect be made worse, you are in fact building a dam across the whole of the road some 75mm above the existing road level this must and has done in other parts of the village cause flooding to adjacent properties.

Numbers 26-28-30 are practically at risk as all lie some way below road level. These property will if the action goes forward be likely to flooding. Clearly should and when this situation arises I will be advising our insures to seek full remuneration from yours for any damage to our property.

In light of the above I would ask that this proposal in turned down flat and alternative found.

We object to the proposal of a raised table on Mill Road for the following reasons.

1. With my property being much lower than the carriageway, we are liable to flooding during heavy rainstorms. This problem could become more serious if a raised platform is installed. This also applies to our neighbour at No.xx.
2. Due to the height of the pathway above my drive I cannot tow my caravan out. I have to motor my van out using its own electric motors, park it on the road, then drive out to hitch-up. A raised table will make this more difficult. More so, if a channel is used to divert water past the table as any vehicle's wheels will drop into the channel.
3. Access to and from our property will become more difficult.
4. Another result of a raised table will be more noise as vehicles slow to cross and accelerate away.
5. This continual deceleration and acceleration will also increase the air pollution locally.