

Summary of meeting between Cllrs Williams and Howells representing Angle Community Council, Stephen Thornton (Valero), and Stephen Bengner (Highways Dept PCC) on 9th September to discuss forthcoming changes to the road layout at the 'Valero' junction. Meeting held via Zoom.

Reason for the meeting

The meeting had been called in response to an email from Mr Bengner, sent on Monday 7th September, notifying ACC that the work to make changes to the junction would be starting on Monday 14th September and would continue for up to 14 weeks. (Plans and a copy of the email have been posted on ACC's Facebook page and website).

Communication about the changes

Cllr Williams welcomed Mr Bengner and Mr Thornton and thanked them for making the time to discuss the forthcoming changes. She started the meeting by expressing her disappointment about the way in which the notification had been communicated and whether it was appropriate, given that Valero and PCC were aware of the concerns that Angle residents had about the proposed changes. Mr Bengner explained that this was the usual process as contractors are not normally able to confirm start dates until 2 weeks before. It was also normal to inform the community council direct, not the residents themselves. However, given the strength of feeling about this project he conceded that the communication could have been better.

ACC explained that they had a problem disseminating this to residents as many did not have access to email or computers to access electronic notifications. That being the case, Mr Thornton offered to speak to Cllr Williams on 10th September to agree an alternative way to communicate the information to all residents (eg leaflet/letter drop). Mr Bengner offered to assist, but neither he nor Mr Thornton have the resources to print a letter for each household as both are still working from home without access to a printer.

In the meantime Mr Bengner agreed to look into producing a press release and would confirm the dates that temporary traffic lights would be in operation.

Information about the Road Works

Mr Bengner explained that the road would be fully open throughout the 14 week period and there would not be any road closures. The first week would involve moving equipment etc to a field on site and this would not impact on travel in any direction.

Cllrs for ACC pointed out that the final plan for the junction layout is different from those previously issued. Cllr Williams asked the reasons for this and Mr Bengner explained that PCC had submitted the earlier plans to an independent body for a Road Safety Audit (RSA) to be undertaken. As a result they had decided not to include a proposed filter lane towards Angle to stop drivers from driving through the junction without stopping. They have also added a chicane off the "main road" to reduce the number of right turns being made by vehicles to reduce the level of risk.

Mr Thornton explained that employees are working to different working patterns at the moment due to the coronavirus pandemic so traffic to and from the site is different from normal. Valero is following Government guidelines and this is under constant review so things might change in the

future. There are still over 1,000 people on site and there is a 'track and trace' system in place. The company is collecting information from employees on the effect that these changes are having on them.

Speeding Restrictions

All agreed that some vehicles are currently travelling too fast along the B4320 and the road past Wallaston Green as the national speed limit of 60mph applies. There are plans to reduce the speed limit to 50 mph as part of the project. There was some discussion about reducing this further, particularly at Wallaston Green. Whilst Mt Thornton supported this proposal, Mr Bengner explained that setting the limit too low could encourage dangerous overtaking and that experience elsewhere showed that 50 mph was sufficient to reduce speed. He went on to explain that a 2nd speed survey (tubes, or radar on the ground) is due to be carried out which would determine how fast vehicles are travelling and what limit could be introduced for maximum safety.

Mr Thornton explained that Valero occasionally request for speed cameras to be deployed along the road to ensure its workers keep to current speed limits and that this was likely to continue.

There was also some discussion about cyclists riding 2 abreast along the road and whether any signs could be erected to discourage this happening where dangerous. Mr Bengner agreed to investigate and reported that there were also plans to look at widening the passing places along the road.

Cllr Williams asked whether the road priority at this junction might be reviewed at a later date in the event of any closure at the site irrespective of ownership and Mr Bengner agreed that it could.

Speed limits through Angle Village

Cllr Howells asked whether there was a way that the speed limit through Angle village could be reduced from the current 30mph as many vehicles were ignoring this and driving dangerously. Mr Bengner explained that there has recently been some relaxation in introducing 20mph speed limits in the county so he would look into this. Even if he was unable to reduce the speed limit he would look to install other traffic calming measures such as chicanes and would visit the village to establish what 'road furniture' might fit and where.

Cllr Williams thanked all participants for their time and closed the meeting.

Anne Randall (Clerk for ACC) 10th September 2020