

Colne Committee 10/10/19

Update Report

The following additional comments have been received supporting the proposed recommendation:

In respect of the above Variation Application, we are in agreement with your report in so much as the Castle Road footpath and road “throttling” scheme should be removed from the requirements of Condition 17. This work on Castle Road has no bearing or connectivity with the housing development on the Lower Rough as it now stands. It will cause harm to this sensitive area from safety, visual and environmental aspects. It risks confusing and distracting drivers and introducing difficulty to traffic flow. In particular, larger agricultural vehicles which frequently use this road and enter and exit private drives and field gates in the immediate vicinity would find it difficult and more dangerous.

Such works would also cause unnecessary and irrevocable damage to wildlife and biodiversity and may damage or destroy the treasured hedgerow along this section of Castle Road which is of particular significance and acts as a wildlife corridor along the road side. The provision of a pavement for approx. 70m where there is no continuation further along Castle Road is not a safety improvement as it would lead to nowhere! It could “lull” pedestrians into a false sense of security as they progress along the road and are then left stranded at a point in the highway which is narrow. Additionally, we concur that the proposed Puffin Crossing between the roundabout and Cotton Tree Lane should be set aside in favour of upgrading the existing zebra crossing opposite the Morris Dancers. The likely chaos and danger caused by queuing traffic is obvious to imagine, but the safety considerations for the increased population and the increased traffic should not be ignored. Hence, we agree that the zebra crossing upgrade should be done before any houses are occupied. Traffic up and down Venables Avenue and around the Lakes Estate will increase and L&B will monitor any safety risks and air pollution in the future.