

QUESTION NO. 1

Mark Drukker to ask the Chair:

Basingstoke Road/Buckland Road Junction

Following the opening of the access road to Aldi, Pub and Gym close to the Basingstoke Road / Buckland Road junction, Whitley residents felt that the area around the junction was an accident waiting to happen. In view of the recent fatality at the junction, and the regular tailbacks to the Rose Kiln Lane junction, will the council change the road markings and the phasing of the traffic lights? Will the council also install London-style countdown signs for pedestrian crossings?

REPLY by Councillor Page:

I thank Mr Drukker for his question.

This area and the junction have been under intense scrutiny following the tragic death of Lauren Heath. The coroner delivered his verdict a couple of weeks ago following the police investigation and this is now a matter of public record.

The pedestrian crossing is of a puffin style with near-sided indicators rather than far sided red/green signals. The puffin crossing is the preferred style of crossing promoted by central government and this site is presented to national standards.

The countdown signs, referred to by Mr Drukker, are designed to help with large volumes of pedestrians that can build up at very busy crossings that are found in certain locations in London.

In the absence of any indication from the police and the coroner that the junction layout needs reviewing, officers have not been asked to consider any changes. The junction has not had a history of complaints or concerns, but if local people have any worries that they want to share with us then they can do so in the normal way.