

Appendix 1: Petition - Request to improve road safety of Hamilton Road junction with Crescent Road

Comment No.	NEAR -MISSES AND COLLISIONS AT CRESCENT ROAD – HAMILTON ROAD CROSSROADS: Residents' comments
1.	Dire danger at this junction. Worst offenders are electric bikes and scooters. Whizz across from Crescent with never a glance. Rules of the road ignored at this junction a dozen times a day.
2.	29 Nov '22: car from Crescent Rd did not stop, drove straight across junction.
3.	Thurs 1 Dec an electric bike with food delivery box did the same. I have seen the same thing several times.
4.	On 08 December 2022: 3pm: a cyclist went straight across Hamilton Road from Crescent without appearing to look out for traffic, she certainly didn't have time to react to that traffic which would have collided with her. I am very wary of this junction, definitely a serious accident waiting to happen.
5.	From my home REDACTED , I've been aware of frequent incidents at the junction, though I don't have any record of dates. I will make a note in future.
6.	I believe most problems are caused by people driving straight across the junction (<i>along Crescent Road</i>) when heading in the direction from Reading to Wokingham Road, either not noticing the junction or else not stopping to look carefully enough. I've seen people driving at speeds of 40mph along Crescent Road in the evenings and not slowing down at all.
7.	13 October 2022. Thursday. Approx 8am Collision: I was cycling down Hamilton Road (South) and a car drove into the side of me as I crossed the junction with Crescent Road. The driver had been stationary but claimed he hadn't seen me. Injury: Minor bruising to leg, very shaken and anxious particularly for my boys who love cycling to school. Bike damaged, requiring replacement. Incident reported to the Council and police: Police ref REDACTED .
8.	I have witnessed numerous near misses at this junction with people not stopping (in Crescent Road) at the junction, going too fast, overtaking, not looking before pulling out. not giving way, parking on the corner to drop off for the school street.
9.	I saw a cyclist peddling like the clappers with head facing almost straight down: came hurtling across Hamilton Road from one side of Crescent to the other.
10.	People regularly drive straight across (Crescent Road) in front of me (my priority), in Hamilton Road.
11.	Over the years we have had 1 collision , 1 near-miss in our family at the Crescent Rd crossroads: - our son got knocked off his bike when coming down Hamilton Road when the car driver appeared to look but didn't! The other time was almost the same our other son was cycling down the road but he didn't get knocked off but had to swerve in order to miss getting knocked off . They were cycling at some speed.

12.	Near-miss: I was cycling (down Hamilton Road South) towards this crossroads with my children (aged then REDACTED) when a car shot straight across it, not stopping for us at all. Had I not been careful one of us might easily have been hit.
13.	I cycle up and down Hamilton Road daily and that junction is very dangerous, especially cycling down the road from the University towards Wokingham Road (cycling North): you can't see what is coming from the West, in particular, until close to the junction. Near- miss: I have had drivers on Crescent Road pull straight across Hamilton Road where I had right of way.
14.	Collision: In the most serious incident, I experienced I was nearly hit by a van that pulled straight across Hamilton Road (from West to East). I was cycling North, down the hill. I managed to swerve to avoid being struck, but I came off my bike in the process and landed on the bonnet of the van. The van was in the middle of the junction when we both came to a halt.
15.	Near-misses: I often find vehicles start to pull out, before seeing me, and braking already part way into the junction. Since coming off the bike I always make sure to cycle wide, so I'm visible as early as possible, and slow down to improve my chances of stopping if someone goes across without looking; however, if I slow down too much some drivers take that as a signal to cross in front of me so this can be dangerous:
16.	Collisions/ Near misses: At some times during my REDACTED years here, it seems there have been collisions almost on a monthly basis, and I'm often aware of hooting, which suggests a near miss. Several of these have been sufficiently serious that vehicles have had to be towed away, and sometimes cyclists have been knocked over.
17.	Near misses: A few times I have had to stop completely before the junction, cycling North, and South, on Hamilton Road, because traffic has driven straight though the junction on Crescent Road. I really do feel vulnerable cycling through that junction on a bike and would love for it to be made safer. I've heard of many more accidents and near misses so I feel it's only a matter of time until someone is killed.
18.	The visibility is really bad in all directions, particularly coming from the West on Crescent Road, but some people don't stop at all, or don't see cyclists until very late, even cycling wide and dressed in fluorescent yellow with a bright front light.
19.	When walking last Saturday (31 December) saw yet another cyclist go straight across Hamilton Road at some speed without any sign of head movement or slowing down prior to crossing.

20.	I have observed traffic driving along Crescent Road: on their approach to the junction drivers were swerving around the speed bumps rather than going over them. (Perhaps) by concentrating on these bumps drivers/cyclists are not giving their full attention to the approaching junction itself. Cyclists are no different in not slowing down and not looking before going across Hamilton Road, much to the danger of both pedestrians, other cyclists and other vehicles.
21.	I've seen numerous near misses at the Hamilton Road/Crescent Road junction, though I've not made a note of them. It has been slightly better (though only slightly) since the Council had the white lines repainted a few weeks ago, but many Crescent Road vehicles still fail to stop at the junction.
22.	Near miss: This morning (9.1.23) I set off in Upper Hamilton Rd on bicycle heading for Cemetery Junction. Cautiously as ever, I approached the crossroads. A driving instructor's car had approached on Crescent Rd from West direction and stopped at the white line. It was bright sunlight and I thought we had made eye contact so hit the pedals. A second later she pulled out in front of me and I had to do an emergency stop, only just managing not to crash into the car. She looked pretty sheepish and mouthed an apology. What is it about this junction...?
23.	Collision bike accident: REDACTED years ago, but similar event to those in more recent reports - cyclist coming down from South (upper) Hamilton Road - The car was coming along Crescent Road from the west and did not stop at crossroads, - hit cyclist - who was catapulted over the car with the bike - and was treated in A&E for head injury / lacerations. - Not reported to Police / Council