

Warwick Road Pedestrian Safety Scheme

Overview

Kenilworth is a key town in the Warwick District area as it attracts a great number of tourists, local visitors and commuters. In the centre of Kenilworth, Warwick Road acts as a 'High Street' where shops are situated on both sides of the road, which therefore generates a high number of pedestrian activity.

Warwick Road serves as a main route to many destinations such as Balsall Common, Temple Balsall, Knowle and Hampton in Arden. There is no shorter alternative available in the area. Therefore, Warwick Road always has significant traffic volumes causing safety, pollution and noise problems.

In conjunction with pollution, pedestrian connectivity is also restrained. Although, there are two signal controlled crossings provided, pedestrian accidents are high. There have been 11 collisions involving pedestrians and cyclists recorded in the last five years.

An accident analysis has been carried out. By looking at safety problems, WCC Safety Engineering Team have provided three options to improve the environment for pedestrians / cyclists by providing visual speed table crossing points, wider footways and a 20 MPH speed limit.

It has been found that short roads with junctions and roundabouts, limiting acceleration to up to 20mph, can reduce fuel consumption (source: AA Fuel for Thought report 2008). In addition, the sensitive siting of traffic calming (speed tables, narrowing) can help to reduce the amount of acceleration/deceleration that each vehicle undertakes by ensuring a more consistent speed along the length of a road, again helping to reduce fuel consumption.

Jury Street/High Street, Warwick and A4141 High Street, Knowle are good local examples where traffic calming speed tables are installed and no increase in air pollution is noted, due to smooth and consistent speed along the length of road.

In light of the above evidence, WCC believes that this proposed scheme will improve pedestrian safety and improve air pollution in the area.