

Road Safety – Further information

Roundabouts & Lane Markings

I believe there are lane markings missing on a roundabout?

It is normal that in some cases there will be no lane markings at a roundabout. Many drivers will use whichever lane appears to be the least congested and will pay no attention to road markings. Providing lane arrows can generate complaints that drivers are using the 'wrong' lanes.

Local conditions can result in drivers familiar with a roundabout taking particular lanes which do not accord with the Highway Code advice. In these circumstances, lane arrows can be more confusing for non-local drivers. However, in some cases it may be necessary to add additional lane markings, including route directions if the roundabout is of a complex nature and there has been a significant history of collisions which has resulted in the roundabout being investigated and reassessed.

How does the County Council prioritise new roundabout markings

New roundabout markings may be installed as part of a casualty reduction scheme where there is a clear benefit in reducing further road casualties. All new roundabouts are subject to various levels of safety audit.

What are the 'rules' when using a roundabout?

The Highway Code advice for approaching a roundabout is 'get into the correct lane' unless signed otherwise.

The Highway Code continues with advice about travelling round the roundabout:

When taking the first exit

- signal left and approach in the left-hand lane
- keep to the left on the roundabout and continue signalling left to leave.

When taking any intermediate exit

- select the appropriate lane on approach to and on the roundabout, signalling as necessary
- stay in this lane until you need to alter course to exit the roundabout
- signal left after you have passed the exit before the one you want.

When taking the last exit or going full circle

- signal right and approach in the right-hand lane
- keep to the right on the roundabout until you need to change lanes to exit the roundabout
- signal left after you have passed the exit before the one you want.

Further information

The Highway Code - Roundabouts:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Highwaycode/DG_070338