

Why are we here today? To ask for your help to improve the safety on our school crossing.

For those of you familiar with the area, the junction is where Shadwell Lane crosses Leeds Ring Road.

1. What is the problem?

- **Cars travel too fast.**

The junction in this highly populated residential area is too complex for the current speed limit of 40mph. In January 2016 there were 2 accidents directly at the junction in question, thankfully without any fatalities. One of the accidents resulted in a car smashing into the tiny pedestrian island families stand on 4 times daily. The metal safety barriers were completely destroyed and the island was left covered in debris. Had this occurred during school run times the island would have had families with very young children stood on it and the outcome would have been totally different. We would not have needed to stand here today pleading with you all to help us improve the safety as there would have been undoubtedly been the fatalities required to force your hand to make the changes needed. It is beyond comprehension that these matters have failed to be addressed. **Please reduce the speed limit or introduce a variable speed limit.**

- **Motorists are unaware school children are crossing.**

The recently installed 'school children crossing signs', are unnoticeable due to all of the other signs that go before them. The junction is highly complicated, motorists are faced with a road that splits into 2 different directions, there are only metres between the signs and the junction. Cars regularly change lanes at speed right before the crossing. Understandably the school hazard triangles could very easily be missed. This could be dramatically improved by installing flashing amber lights below the hazard triangles on the Ring Road and Shadwell Lane.

We have held numerous meetings with Highways Officers who have verbally agreed there is a requirement for flashing warning signals, these were promised to us in January but have failed to materialise. It is imperative that these hazard lights are installed before dark nights set in once again in September/ October time.

Please ensure flashing lights are installed to ensure motorists are aware that children are crossing.

- **The junction is complicated with many hazards for both motorists and pedestrians.**

This junction is on a main walking route to Highfield Primary School. The school has rapidly expanded and this academic year has taken on a 3 form entry 'bulge' year. As a result the pedestrian islands are now too small for the amount of people crossing with pushchairs, bikes and scooters. Families stand marooned on a tiny central island with articulated lorries and cars whizzing past at 40mph in both directions.

In reality the whole junction is badly designed for current pedestrian traffic and needs re-thinking. The lack of visible warning signs alerting motorists that children/ pedestrians are crossing further exacerbates the dangers. **It is only a matter of time before a serious accident occurs.** The council do not consider the great number of near misses when assessing safety issues.

2. How can they help?

- You can vote to help us.
- Reduce the speed limit on Shadwell Lane and Leeds Ring Road (the residential section).
- Install flashing amber lights to ensure that motorists are aware that school children are crossing as a matter of urgency.
- In the long term consideration should be given to re-structuring the junction so it is fit to current purpose.

How can a 40mph speed limit be justified by LCC when government policy advocates school crossings should have a 20mph speed limit?

"...if you hit a child at 30mph they have an 80% chance of living, but if you hit them at 40mph they have an 80% chance of dying." (Think! campaign 2009).

People are precious and irreplaceable. Please don't leave this issue only to implement changes once a life has been lost.