

### **Request for scrutiny from Councillor Jonathan Bentley**

A request for Scrutiny was submitted by Councillor Bentley on the A660 Lawnswood junction scheme in January 2019. Concerns specifically related to replacing the roundabout with a multi-lane light-controlled intersection, particularly highlighting:-

- Local residents' concerns and questions are not being adequately addressed. Although the traffic planners are claiming improved bus journey times the evidence for this is not compelling. Residents have countered with evidence of their own.
- Traffic planners are citing improved road safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Residents have proposed alternatives which they claim would deliver the road safety improvements without the need to remove the roundabout.
- The congestion on the A660 is caused by problems further down in Far Headingley, Headingley and Hyde Park not at the Lawnswood end of the A660. It is felt that the decision to start the work at Lawnswood is flawed. It is also speculated that the decisions with regard to Lawnswood are more about the Council's plans for the whole of the Outer Ring Road and that LPTIP funding should not be used for this.
- The cost of the scheme is estimated at about £10 million. This seems a disproportionate amount compared to the benefits claimed.
- There is a significant environmental impact including the destruction of mature trees and the removal of a landmark floral roundabout.

### **Additional matters highlighted by Councillor Jonathan Bentley**

Since the date of original consideration Councillor Bentley has also highlighted the following further issues:-

- Following the local elections Cllr Mulherin, as the new executive member responsible, instructed officers to review the proposals. Cllr Mulherin changed the principal reason for the proposals from the original objective of improving bus journey times to one of improving safety of pedestrians and cyclists.
- The residents' group had already submitted proposals that would improve pedestrian and cyclist safety whilst retaining the roundabout.
- There is confusion as to the future of the Lawnswood roundabout. The local MP has put out an announcement that it has been "saved" but this has not been confirmed by the Council.
- There has been no consultation with residents as part of the review now being undertaken.
- There is concern that £380,000 had been spent on the original proposals, without any tangible outcome other than a "return to the drawing board"