

Motion for improving Cuckoo Corner

Traffic congestion is a major issue in our city, exacerbated by many bottlenecks and areas of high traffic pressure. The Cuckoo Corner roundabout is one such area with regular traffic jams tailing back in multiple directions having a knock-on effect to traffic congestion across the city.

This junction is a vital gateway to the East of the city for buses and motorists. When clogged, tailbacks can reach the city centre, Kent Elms corner, Sutton Road roundabout, and beyond Warner's Bridge into Rochford.

Natural traffic flow is impeded by an unsuitable layout that includes partial traffic signalling at the roundabout, traffic-controlled pedestrian crossings too close to the junction, and merges in-turn that are too short. Planned large-scale developments in the city will add significant volumes of traffic including large vehicles for delivery, causing further congestion.

This junction falls between the two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) of Southend, and the air quality here is not currently sufficiently monitored. On recent walkabouts with ward councillors, members of the senior leadership team found it difficult to breathe after a few short minutes at the junction.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- 1) Publish existing data around current traffic congestion and any monitoring undertaken at this junction. Where this data does not exist, Council will monitor the following for a period of at least 3 months:
 - a) Volume of traffic, given on an hourly basis to identify peak periods of pressure;
 - b) Distribution of these vehicle movements at each entry/ exit;
 - c) Use of pedestrian crossings, to be cross-referenced with peak traffic periods.
- 2) Model alternative layouts and arrangements for Cuckoo Corner junction, including:
 - a) Box junctions;
 - b) Relocation of the pedestrian crossings;
 - c) Relining options;
 - d) Improved provisions for cyclists;
 - e) Improved provision for buses;
 - f) Phasing of traffic lights;
 - g) Full traffic signalling on all exits/ entrances, or;
 - h) Removal of traffic signals to aid traffic flow.
- 3) Conduct a focused assessment of air quality at the Cuckoo Corner junction, to include:
 - a) Live monitoring of air quality over a minimum 6-month period;
 - b) Particulate monitoring (PM2.5 and PM5).
- 4) Liaise with local bus companies to understand the pressures caused by congestion at this junction on achieving a punctual service.

Proposer: Cllr Lydia Hyde

Secunder: Cllr Daniel Cowan