

BRIEFING NOTE – PETITION TO DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED AT OMAHA DRIVE/RIVER PLATE ROAD CORNER, NEWCOURT.

Why do the local residents, motorists and bus drivers on Routes I and J have to tolerate an unsafe junction in the middle of the Newcourt community?



There are vehicle conflicts every day as buses and other vehicles have to back up and cause frustration and danger to road users. More importantly, there are no safe road crossing facilities for pedestrians, disabled and children near this junction.

There has been a previous accident involving a child at this junction and residents advise of many 'near misses'.

The Junction is not designed and constructed to national safety based guidelines and suffers from the following deficiencies:

- **INADEQUATE ROAD GEOMETRY:** The carriageway width through the junction is a substandard 5.5 metres, and not even 6.0 metres as shown on the plans.
- **UNSAFE ROAD GEOMETRY:** There is no curve carriageway widening as recommended by current authoritative guidelines of the **Highways Agency**, The **Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation (CIHT)** and the recent publication '**Bus Services and New Residential Developments**' by Stagecoach (2017) in respect of road layout and safety.
- **NO SAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSING FACILITY:** Firstly, there is no suitable safe location for a pedestrian crossing with the existing junction geometry. Secondly, any crossing

using the existing junction geometry would not address the problem of any pedestrian, child or disabled person (the latter two categories with low level sight constraints) wishing to cross the road close to the junction from south west to north east has to scan 270 degrees to check on approaching traffic. The road needs to be (a) widened to allow the incorporation of a mid-carriageway pedestrian refuge to allow separate safe negotiation of each traffic lane, and (b) the geometry needs to be changed to allow a crossing that connects safely with the footways on each side of the road.

- **POOR JUNCTION VISIBILITY DUE TO BUILDINGS CLOSE TO THE JUNCTION AND ESTABLISHED ROADSIDE PARKING BAYS OBSTRUCTING VISIBILITY CLOSE TO THE JUNCTION WHEN OCCUPIED:** The visibility for motorists approaching the junction from River Plate Road and Omaha Drive is severely restricted by the proximity of the residential buildings to the junction (not possible to alleviate), and the proximity of off road parking close to the junction (not possible to alleviate). These factors compound the previous problem.
- **HEAVY VEHICLE CONFLICTS:** The serious difficulties that bus and heavy vehicle drivers have in negotiating the existing junction leading to many head on tracking conflicts, as shown in the foregoing images.
- **NO ADEQUATE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA FROM THE ROAD SIDE:** There is no effective safety fence separating the adjacent children's play area from the carriageway. As the ground slopes towards the road, there is a real danger that a child will carelessly pursue a loose ball onto the road.
- **ACCOMMODATING FUNDAMENTAL PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC MOVEMENT NEEDS:** The existing layout of roads and footpaths around the junction gives no consideration to the substantial number of community pedestrian movements between the rail station, community centre, retail development under construction and the various elements of the Newcourt residential development. The Planning and Development approvals by the Council obviously significantly disregard the current and future community mobility needs and safety.

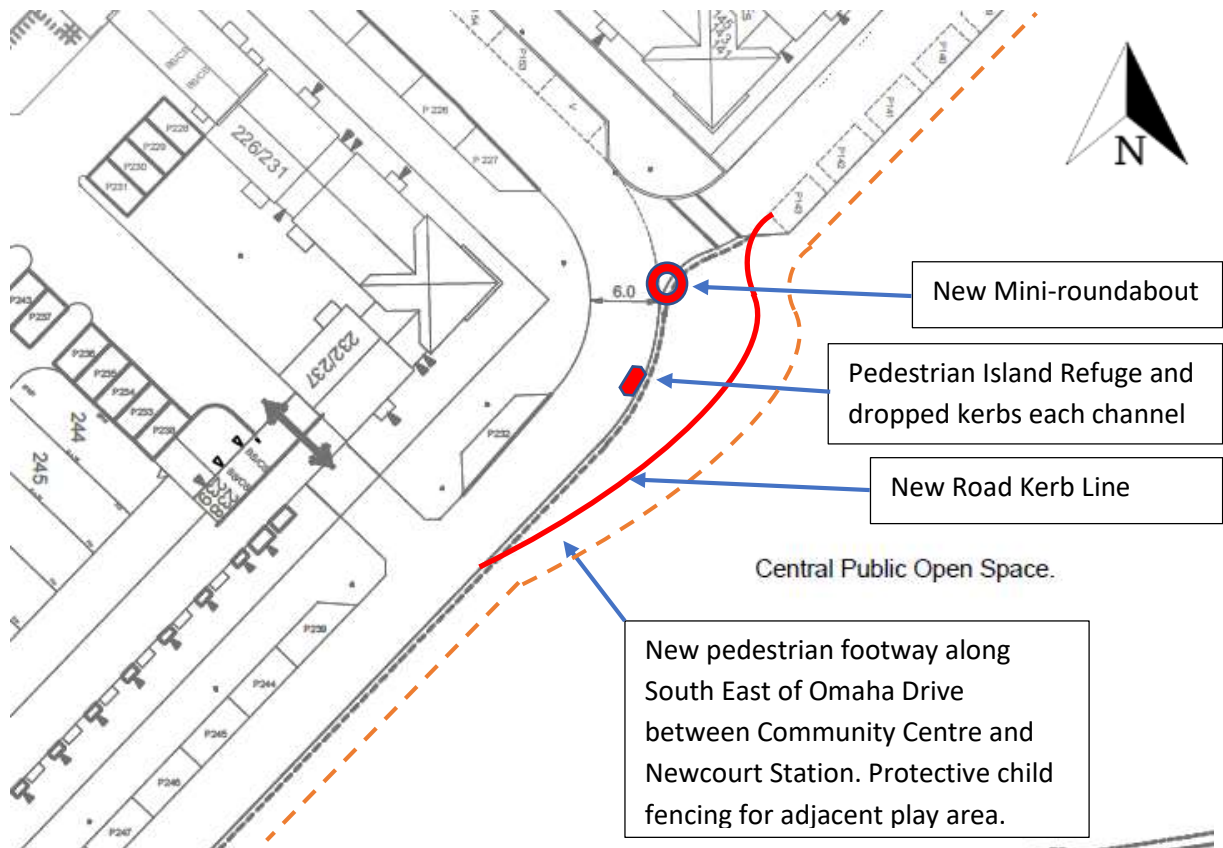
The Council is proposing parking restrictions around the junction, which will of course slightly alleviate the safety problems. However, the other safety deficiencies described above need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.

The Newcourt Community Association has submitted proposals to substantially improve the safety at the junction.

Please register your support for these proposals.

See next page for diagrams and photos.

CONCEPT PROPOSAL FOR SAFETY TREATMENT ON JUNCTION RIVER PLATE & OMAHA DRIVE, NEWCOURT, EXETER.



EXAMPLE MINI-ROUNDBABOUT



EXAMPLE PEDESTRIAN ISLAND REFUGE



For Newcourt Community Association

September 2018