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Lyndhurst village – A35 safety improvements

Image from Hampshire County Council

Key findings

Key findings

Proposal 1

Although it was felt that this proposal would improve safety in the village, there were concerns about the potential congestion it would cause and questions about its proximity to the corner and motorists not always indicating/ having poor visibility.

Proposal 2

There were concerns about the congestion that would be caused by a reduction in road capacity, and the impact this would have on residents accessing their properties.

Proposal 3

There was general agreement with the introduction of a 20mph speed limit, although some felt that it was already impossible to exceed 20mph here. The removal of the car park slip lane was not generally supported.

Proposal 4

The 20mph speed limit was generally welcomed, but it was not felt that the crossing was necessary, with existing infrastructure considered sufficient. There were concerns about congestion and access to properties.

Proposal 5

Cyclists welcomed this proposal, but residents had major concerns about the impact on free-flowing access to houses when the traffic is heavy, especially on/ around Shrubbs Hill Lane.

Other comments

There were a number of alternative suggestions made, which will be shared with the project team in a separate document, for their consideration.

Introduction

Lyndhurst village A35 safety improvements - background



Background

Lyndhurst is a village and key gateway to the New Forest National Park. Two major routes (the A35 and the A337) cross in the centre, carrying large volumes of through-traffic, as many drivers use the village to avoid longer strategic routes. This creates an unpleasant and unsafe environment for people walking, wheeling or cycling, and causes regular congestion for drivers.

Visitor numbers rise sharply at weekends and holidays, increasing traffic pressure. Over time, road changes have prioritised vehicle flow, resulting in a two-lane one-way system that has made the streets less attractive and harder for residents, businesses and visitors to use.



The scheme

The scheme has two main aims:

1. Improve the High Street walking/ wheeling (using a wheelchair or mobility scooter) environment
 - reviewing the current speed limit and consider introducing a 20mph zone
 - improving the walking/ wheeling crossing experience and reducing the impact of traffic on the High Street
2. Reduce traffic dominance of the existing one-way system by:
 - reviewing junction designs to slow traffic, particularly lorries, including converting junction merge points into give-way
 - road narrowing to help create a slower, calmer traffic environment
 - exploring options to provide cycle lanes on the one-way system.

Lyndhurst village A35 safety improvements – aims and method



Aims

Hampshire County Council is committed to listening to the views of local residents and stakeholders. The purpose of this engagement exercise was to inform the development plans for the A35 in Lyndhurst village. Specifically, this engagement exercise sought to understand the potential impact of the proposed changes on residents of the area.



Method

Hampshire County Council held an in-person information event at the Lyndhurst community centre on Thursday 19 March 2026. The event ran from 2pm to 6:45pm and offered members of the public and stakeholders an opportunity to find out more about the scheme and provide written feedback on the proposals. Both Highways Engineers and engagement officers were present at the event.

The event was publicised using social media, and by asking local businesses and organisations to exhibit posters about the event, provided by Hampshire County Council.

A large-scale information pack outlining the background, rationale and funding for the scheme was available at the event for attendees to view. There was opportunity for attendees to provide written feedback on their general thoughts about each of the five proposals, and to say whether they supported it or not, as well as an opportunity to provide more general comments.

Attendance summary

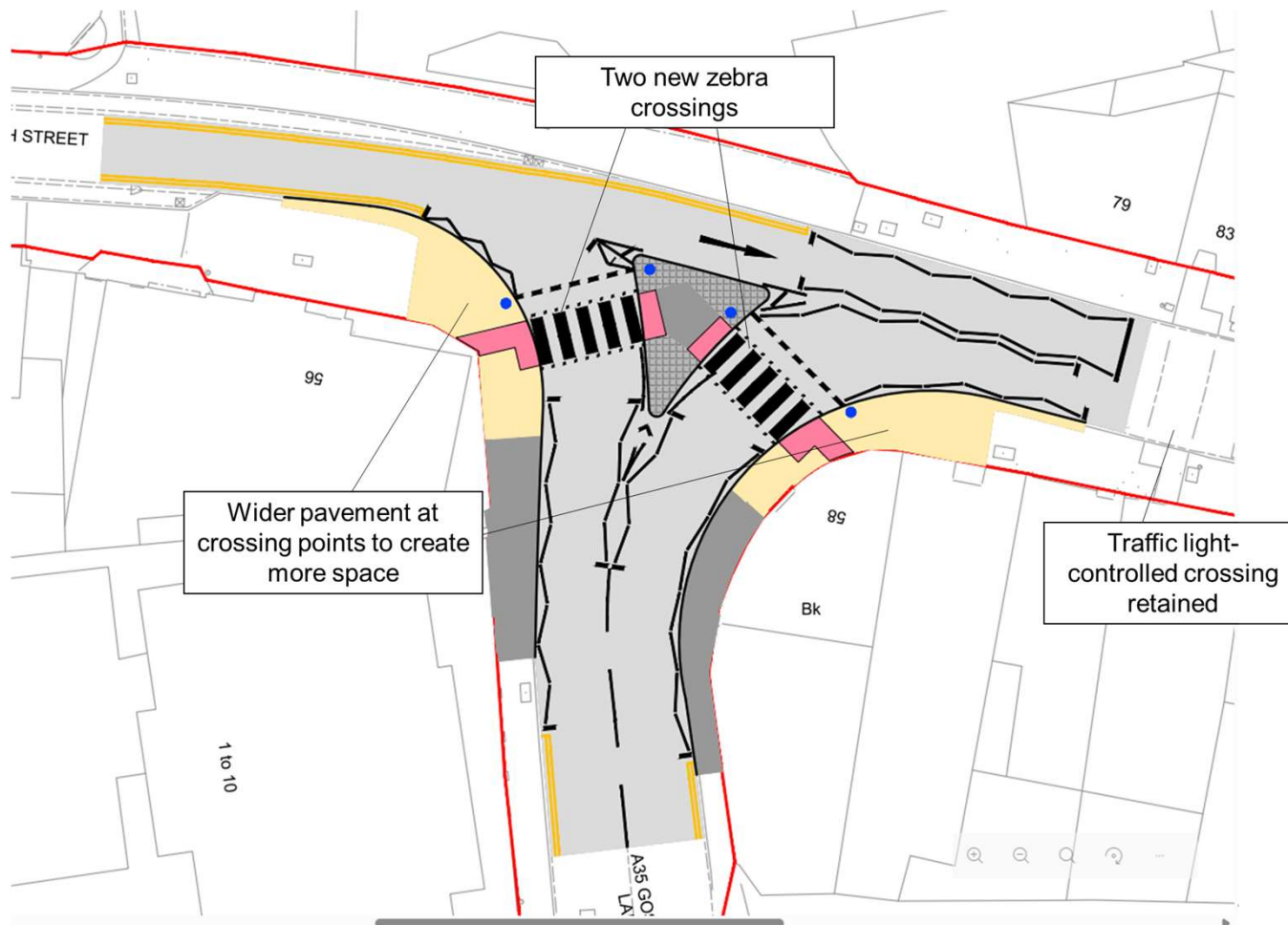
154 people attended the event at the community centre, including local residents, representatives from cycle groups and elected Members from Parish and District Councils.

219 comments were left across the five proposals during the event.

An additional 33 general comments were left on the day.

Nine further responses were submitted by email.

Proposal 1 – crossing at High Street/ Gosport Lane



Proposal 1 - overview

Proposal 1 – Agreement/ disagreement

40 comments were made agreeing with the proposal



The main reasons for agreement were around improved safety:

- seven attendees said that it would make crossing safer
- one attendee stated that it would increase visibility
- one attendee felt it would make cycling safer

Two attendees stated that this was a popular crossing point

Two comments neither agreed nor disagreed

Both of these attendees felt that the proposal would improve pedestrian safety but were concerned about congestion.

One attendee also suggested that the traffic light-controlled crossing on High St be moved to the middle of this junction

Eight comments were provided disagreeing with the proposal



- Three comments were about the proposal causing congestion in the village
- Five of these were asking for the crossing to be relocated and two people thought it was too close to the corner
- Two stated that there was no need for a crossing here

Proposal 1 – other comments



Crossings

Four requests to move or remove existing crossings in Lyndhurst (4 mentions)
One request for an additional crossing outside Hartwood House
One request to change the existing traffic light crossing to a zebra crossing



Speed limit

Three requests for a 20mph speed limit on Gosport Lane
Two requests for a 20mph speed limit 'everywhere'
One request for a 20mph speed limit on Goose Green
20mph markings on the road (one comment)
For the proposals to incorporate a reduction in the speed limit (one comment)



Concerns

Two comments about drivers not indicating when turning into Gosport Lane
Two comments about visibility for drivers being poor at this junction
One request for motorists to be warned about the new crossing
One comment concerned that widening the pavement will make it hard for large vehicles to safely turn into Gosport Lane



Road markings

One request for the road markings in the village to be repainted

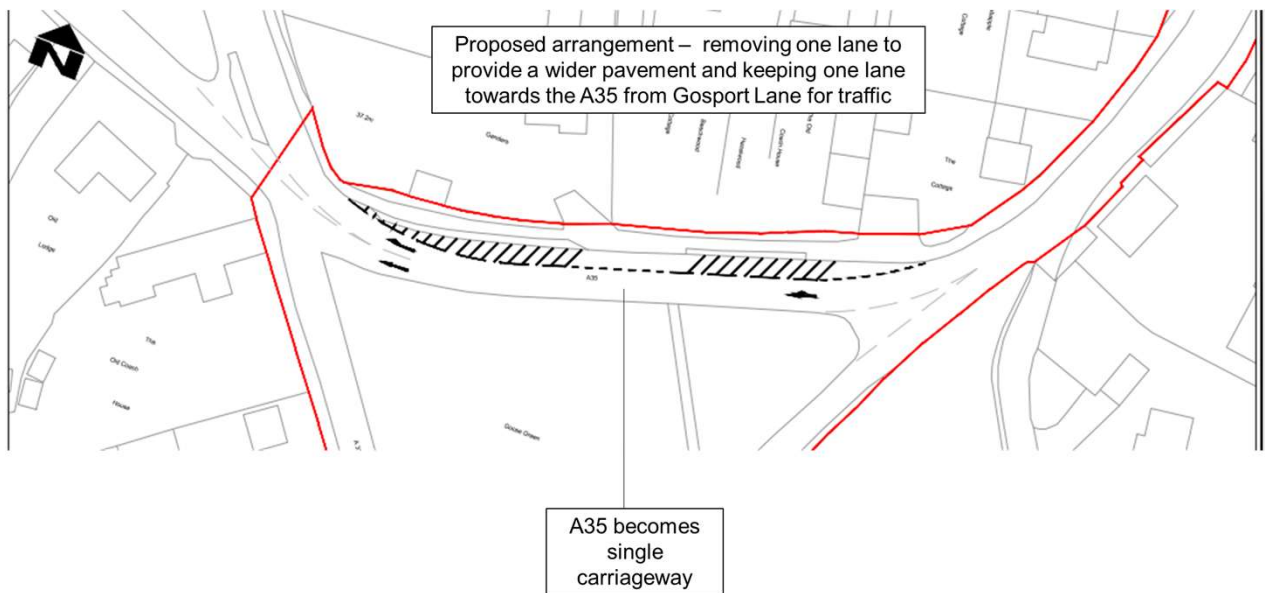


Car park entrance

One question about the effect of the right-hand turn into the car park on Gosport Lane upon this proposal
One comment about the closure of the car park entrance creating congestion

Proposal 2 – Goose Green

Proposal 2 - overview



Proposal 2 – Agreement/ disagreement

13 comments agreed with the proposal



The following reasons for agreement were mentioned:

- Two lanes are not needed here (2 mentions)
- It will prevent speeding (1 mention)
 - It is a cheap option (1 mention)
- Positivity about a wider pavement (1 comment)

Two comments neither agreed nor disagreed



One attendee questioned what the knock-on effect would be on traffic queuing to come into the village

32 comments were provided disagreeing with the proposal



Reasons for disagreement included:

- It will cause congestion (13 mentions)
- It will make access to properties on Goose Green difficult and dangerous (5 comments)
- It will make Gosport Lane more difficult and dangerous to cross (3 mentions)
 - It will increase speeding (2)
 - Two lanes are needed here (2)
 - The pavement here is not used (2)
- Cars may drive into pedestrians if there isn't a kerb (1)
 - It is not necessary (1 comment)

Proposal 2 – other comments



Alternative/ additional suggestions

One suggestion to alter the entry position of the road where it splits off Gosport Lane – slowing traffic & providing space for a wider shared use pavement

One request for traffic calming

One request for a controlled crossing in the middle of the road

One request to retain the small island on Goose Green

One request for a zebra crossing

One suggestion of a no entry sign at the junction to stop vehicles going the wrong way

One suggestion that a reduction in road width must be accompanied by a ban on parking along the northern edge of Goose Green



Speed limit

Three comments suggested a 20mph speed limit in this area

One attendee asked for 20mph markings on the road



Comments about the area

One comment that there are no queues here

One complaint about cars parking outside the houses on Shrubbs Hill Lane and blocking the road



Cycling

One positive comment about including cycling infrastructure

One request for a segregated cycle lane on Gosport Lane



Gosport Lane

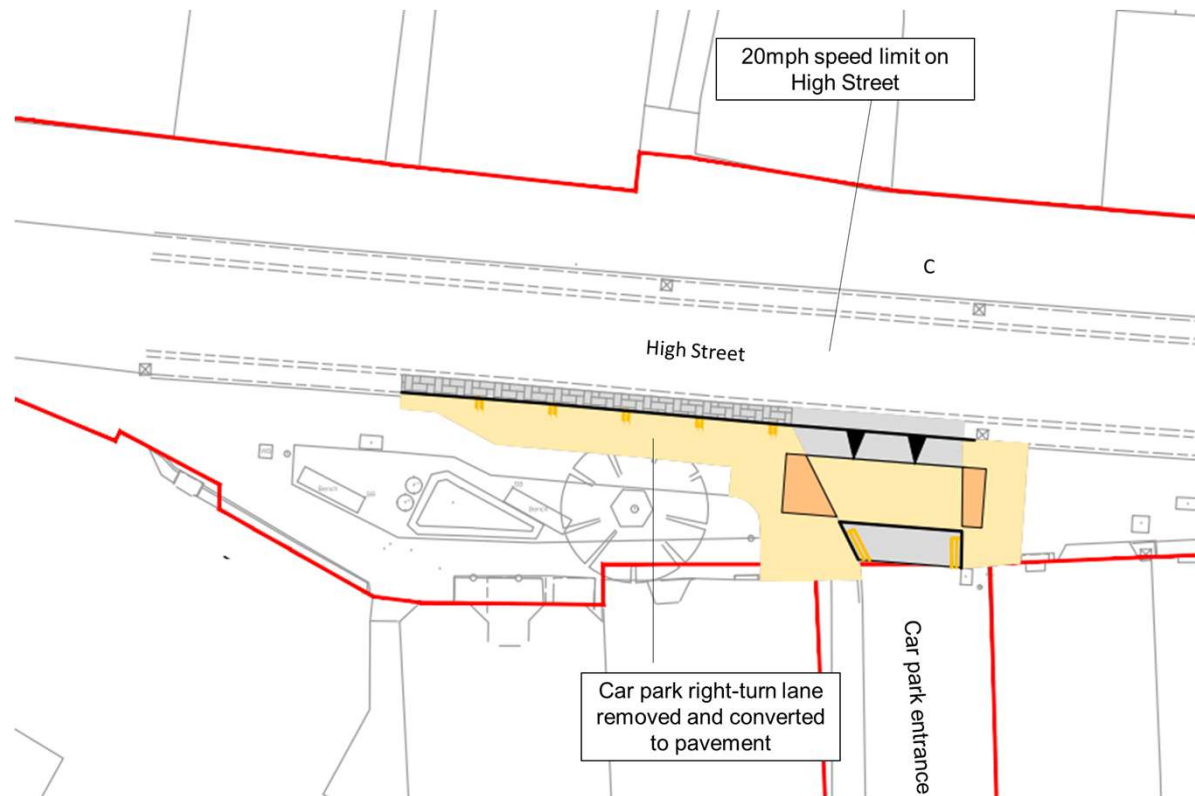
Two suggestions to make Gosport Lane single lane

Two requests to control speed on Gosport Lane

One comment about Gosport Lane being dangerous

Proposal 3 – High Street

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Proposal 3 - overview

Proposal 3 – Agreement/ disagreement

28 comments were provided that agreed with the proposal:

- 26 of these agreed with the 20mph speed limit
- 10 agreed with removing the slip lane to the car park
- One agreed with the continuous pavement
 - One supported the wider pavement



Reasons for agreement included:

- Three comments about how this would improve pedestrian safety
 - One comment that it would reduce traffic speed
- One comment that this would reduce the instances of sat navs sending additional traffic this way
 - One comment that the slip lane is not needed

27 comments were provided disagreeing with the proposal:

- 7 of these disagreed with the 20mph speed limit
- 25 disagreed with the removal of the car park slip lane



Reasons for disagreement included:

- There is no speeding on High Street (7 comments)
 - This proposal is not needed (6 comments)
- The pavement is wide enough already (4 comments)
- Concerns about the congestion this would cause (4 comments)
 - This will not slow cars entering the car park (1 comment)
 - The slip lane is needed (1 comment)

Proposal 3 – other comments



Alternative/ additional suggestions

Two requests for a weight restriction for the village
Eight requests for the existing weight restriction to be enforced

Two requests for traffic calming measures

One suggestion that the proposal is trialled first

One request to prevent pavement parking on High Street

One suggestion for adding a zebra crossing inside the entrance to the car park

One suggestion to stop parking on the corner of Church Lane

One suggestion of putting bollards on both sides of High Street to reduce speeding and prevent vehicles mounting the kerb



Pavements

Three requests to remove pavement clutter to improve visibility

One suggestion to build out the pavement and provide more space for the cafe



Safety issues

One comment suggesting that this would increase the number of collisions

One concern about the safety of continuous pavements



Speed limit

Four comments that the speed limit needs enforcing

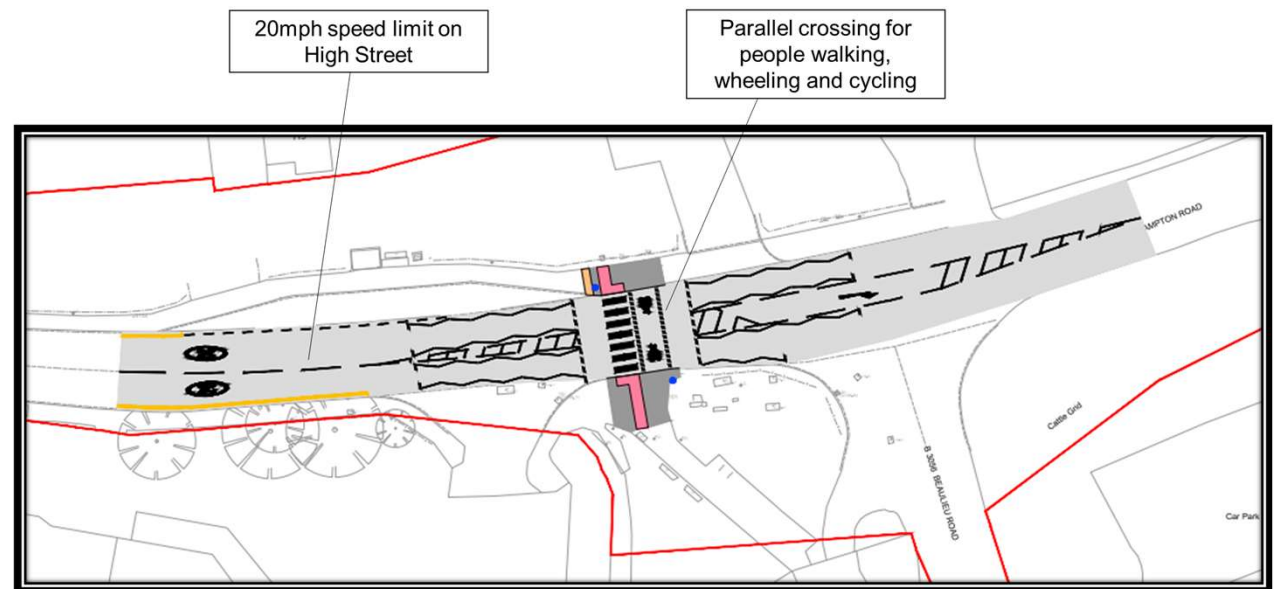
Three requests for an extension of the 20mph limit

One request for 20mph signage

Proposal 4 – Crossing near Beaulieu Road

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Proposal 4 - overview



Proposal 4 – Agreement/ disagreement

18 comments were provided that agreed with the proposal:

- 18 agreed with the 20mph speed limit
- 10 agreed with the crossing



Reasons for agreement included:

- Five comments that 20mph is needed here
- Two comments that it would improve pedestrian safety
- Two comments about reducing the speed of traffic
- One comment about good links to the existing NCN for cyclists

17 comments were provided disagreeing with the proposal:

- 5 disagreed with the 20mph speed limit
- 17 disagreed with the crossing



Reasons for disagreement included:

- The existing island/ crossing works (9 comments)
 - The scheme is not needed (6 comments)
 - Concerns about congestion (3 comments)
- Concerns about the impact on traders (1 comment)
- Concerns about residents being unable to access their houses (1 comment)
- Concerns about traffic being pushed onto unsuitable alternative roads (1 comment)
- The pavement is already wide enough (1 comment)

Proposal 4 – other comments



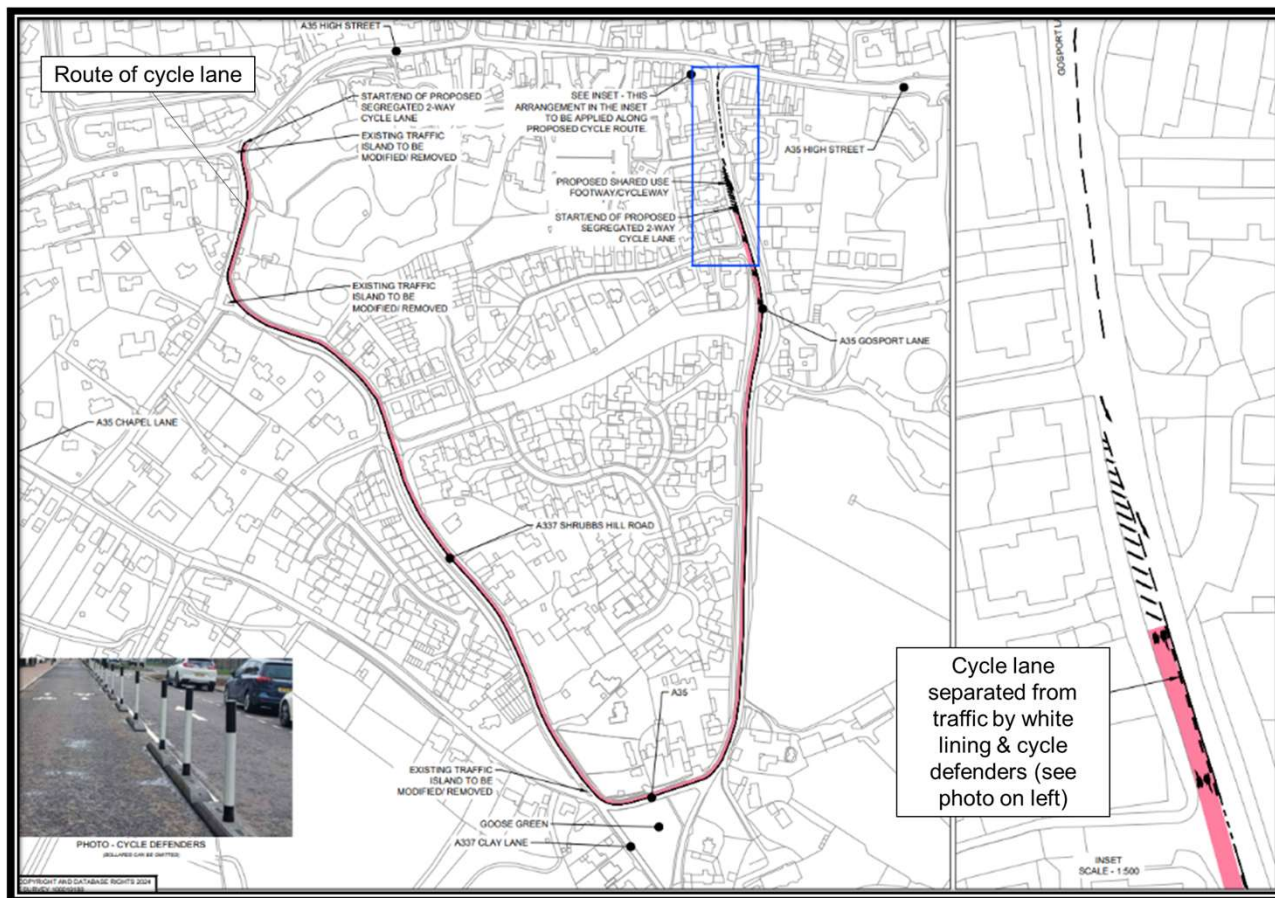
Cycling

There was one request for additional cycle infrastructure, keeping cyclists on a safe route until they reach the inclosure via Beaulieu Road

There was one request to stop cyclists riding past this point on High Street

Proposal 5 – One-way system cycle lane

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Proposal 5 - overview

Proposal 5 – Agreement/ disagreement

21 comments were provided that agreed with the proposal, including seven that specifically made positive comments about increased cycle infrastructure



Reasons for agreement included:

- There are existing safety issues for cyclists (3 comments)
 - A cycle lane is needed (3 comments)
- It will improve safety (1 comment)
- It will stop speeding (1 comment)

Three comments neither agreed nor disagreed



One attendee was concerned about bottlenecks, but recognised that it would be safer for cyclists

One comment was about people walking in the road near the shops

One comment was about this being the wrong location for a cycle path

18 comments were provided disagreeing with the proposal



Reasons for disagreement included:

- There will be a negative impact on residents (6 comments)
- A cycle lane is not needed (4 comments)
 - It will cause congestion (3 comments)
 - It will cause speeding (1 comment)
- Cyclists won't use the lane (1 comment)
- It is difficult to implement (1 comment)
- The cycle lane wouldn't link to anything (1 comment)
- This proposal is less important than the others (1 comment)

Proposal 5 – other comments



Alternative/ additional suggestions

Four requests for a 20mph speed limit

Three requests for speed cameras or enforcement

Make the pavement shared use (1 comment)

The focus of the scheme should be to keep vehicles moving (1 comment)

A suggestion to use Chapel Lane as 2-way as there is lots of traffic to Brockenhurst (1 comment)

! Shrubbs Hill Lane

The proposal would cause substantial inconvenience to residents as it would block access to their homes (via the left lane) when traffic is heavy (4 comments)

Do not remove the parking (1 comment)

Do not remove the bus lane (1 comment)

Allow cyclists to use the bus lane (1 comment)



Cycling

Two requests for additional cycling infrastructure towards

Two requests for cycle infrastructure to enable people to access the National Park Forest Tracks

Brockenhurst

One suggestion that the cycle lane is not needed all the way round, but should connect Goose Green and Southampton Rd/ Pinkney Lane via the car park and crossings

One request to make the cycle lane compulsory

One comment about cyclists being dangerous to pedestrians

A request for the cycle Lane to include the A35 from Bank turning

General comments

Additional/ general comments on the proposals

Agree/ disagree

Seven comments were supportive of the proposals, including two comments that the proposals would improve the village

One comment was opposed to the proposals

Pavements

Four comments about pavements being inadequate

Two comments about the need for pavement parking enforcement

One comment about the need to get cyclists off pavements

One comment about pavements being wide enough

One comment about narrow pavements

Speed limit

Three requests to improve existing 30mph signage

Seven requests to introduce or extend the 20mph limit

One request to speed restrict cyclists

Crossings

A suggestion to use zebra crossings instead of pelicans, as these will impact less on the flow of traffic (1 comment)

There are no difficulties crossing (1 comment)

Requests for:

- More crossings (1 comment)
- A crossing outside Hartwood House (2 comments)
- The crossing on High St/ Romsey Rd having an audible signal (1 comment)

Congestion

One comment about the proposals causing gridlock

One comment about the impact of gridlock on the local businesses

Safety issue

Two comments about reducing down to one lane at Goose Green being dangerous

Additional/ general comments on the proposals

! Current issues

- Six comments about speeding being an issue in Lyndhurst
- Two comments about issues with 'rat runners' in Racecourse View
- One comment about poor cyclist behaviour
- One comment concerned about children crossing the road near St Michael's school
- One comment about HGVs needing to be able to pass through without damaging infrastructure
- One comment about vegetation needing to be maintained to avoid it blocking pavements

📍 Impacts

- Three comments concerned with the impact the proposals might have on alternative, unsuitable routes/ roads
- Two comments about the impact to residents on/ around Shrubbs Hill Lane
- One comment concerned about the potential impact on surrounding areas/ villages

💡 Alternative/ additional suggestions

- A suggestion to coordinate the traffic lights better/ review timings, to improve traffic flow (3 comments)
- Two suggestions for trialling 'merge in turn' on Romsey Rd. High St, as exists during the New Forest Show – this greatly reduces congestion
- Install traffic calming in the village (2 comments)
- The village needs a bypass (1 comment)
- Convert Chapel Lane to one-way towards Brockenhurst, and Shrubbs Hill to one-way towards High St & Christchurch (1 comment)
- Ban lorries in the village centre (1 comment)
- Parking enforcement needed in the village (2 comments)
- A detailed alternative option for Goose Green was provided (1 comment)