

Riverway Pedestrian and Junction Improvements – ‘You Said, We Will’

In February - March 2021 we carried out public consultation on our proposals to introduce a pedestrian and junction improvement scheme on Riverway, at the junction of Darlington Street and King Street. We wanted to give local residents and businesses the opportunity to have their say on the proposals. Now the consultation has closed, we have reviewed all correspondence received and collated our responses and further actions below.

You Said	We Will
You asked if it would be possible to install pedestrian facilities on all arms of the junction of Queen Street and Chapel Lane	We welcome suggestions for making improvements to the network and review the feasibility of any ideas, where possible. We do not currently have funding to investigate the feasibility of this suggestion, but we do have an aspiration to provide better walking and cycling connections between the new A49 Link Road and the town centre. We will therefore be reviewing the junctions along Chapel Lane in the next few years if funding can be secured.
You said you agree with the proposal to have pedestrian crossings on all arms of the Darlington Street / Chapel Lane / King Street junction.	We will ensure we keep residents and businesses up to date as the project progresses through to construction and we appreciate your feedback.
You said you agree with widening the footway and narrowing the carriageway, and this should encourage walkers and cyclists, and discourage car drivers from using Chapel Lane as a racetrack.	We have undertaken surveys to understand the current use of the junction by pedestrians, cyclist sand general traffic. We will survey the junction after the changes have been made to assess the effectiveness of the proposals in improving road safety and encouraging more people to travel on foot. We are also monitoring air quality in the area and will assess if there have been any improvements once the changes have been made.
You said that the new proposal to change King Street from two lanes to one lane will cause traffic to back up all the way back down the A49 and round onto Queen Street.	We have carried out traffic modelling and we do not envisage any negative effects to traffic movement overall for Riverway. Although some parts of the junction may experience a slight delay the overall impact will not adversely affect traffic movement.
You said reducing road space will make traffic ever worse than it already is at peak times.	At peak times traffic can be heavy but we have modelled the movement of vehicles through Riverway and as above we are not expecting a detrimental impact.
You said the improvements aren't necessary because not many pedestrians cross at the junction.	This is a busy part of the town centre and we are always looking at improvements to ensure pedestrians can safely cross busy main roads. After careful assessment we feel this is an appropriate junction to add more crossing points.

<p>You said Wigan Council is wasting public money with the scheme and asked whether the money could be spent on other things, such as addressing fly-tipping and maintaining existing infrastructure.</p>	<p>This scheme is externally funded by the Government's Department for Transport, specifically for walking and cycling improvements. If we did not invest this fund in improved cycling and walking infrastructure in the area it would be allocated to other areas outside of the borough.</p> <p>Due to the funding criteria from central Government this money cannot be spent on maintaining existing infrastructure, addressing fly-tipping or anything other than new and improved cycling and walking infrastructure.</p>
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