

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Byway 30 planning application 242051

Thank you for inviting the British Horse Society to respond to this planning application. Unfortunately the Society is unable to support this application at this time for lack of consideration for horse riders in the design of this crossing point.

There are stables in very close proximity to the proposed housing development that will surround this new road. A percentage of people buying the new homes are likely to be horse owners who will prefer to keep their horse as close to home as possible, especially if they would like to care for their horse themselves (DIY livery). It is therefore highly likely that horse rider use of byway 30 may increase as more people move into the locality. Byway 30 may also see increased use if it can be incorporated into a circular ride/walk.

A21029 P5 - Byway Crossing Arrangements

- No provision appears to have been made for horse riders, only motorised vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. This could lead to confusion over where horse riders are to ride. The Highway code states -
 - **Rule 54**
*You **MUST NOT** take a horse onto a footpath or pavement, and you should not take a horse onto a cycle track.*
- The provision for pedestrians and cyclists shows a central waiting area as part of the design, this may increase safety for these users, but would present a potentially very dangerous situation should a horse rider attempt to use it and wait while traffic passes both in front of and behind the horses. The highway code also details and states as follows -
 - It requires Horse riders to stay to the left of a carriageway so traffic only passes on their right hand side. If traffic, cyclists included, try to pass a horse on both sides simultaneously this could cause a serious accident.
 - **Rule 215.**
Take great care and treat all horses as a potential hazard; they can be unpredictable, despite the efforts of their rider/driver. Remember there are three brains at work when you pass a horse; the rider's, the driver's and the horse's. Do not forget horses are flight animals and can move incredibly quickly if startled.
 - It also notes that horse riders are often children so extra care must be taken around them.
- If it has been deemed necessary for there to be a central waiting area to make crossing safer for pedestrians and cyclists, this implies that they may not be time/ability to cross both carriageways in one move/pass. If this is the case, it would also not be possible for a horse rider to walk across both in one move/pass either.

Transport Statement

- Consideration is only given to motorised vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists. There is no mention of horse riders or carriage drivers. Whilst it could be assumed that carriage drivers may follow the same route as motorised vehicles, without horse rider provision there would be confusion over which crossing horse riders should use.

- Horse riders must be included in this document and provision made for them. If it is not possible for horse riders to cross the new road in one move/pass, an assisted crossing, such as a Pegasus crossing which has buttons set back from the roadway, at a convenient height for a rider to press, would need to be added here so they can cross safely. This would also increase safety for other vulnerable groups such as disabled, elderly, parents with push chairs and prams, or accompanying small children on bicycles/ other wheeled modes of travel.
- Please see this link to the BHS publication with more detailed information and advice on [road-crossings-1025.pdf](#)

Conclusion

Please would you revise the crossing design and transport statement to include horse riders and carriage drivers. Ensuring that these groups have safe passage is essential to avoid unnecessary accidents, if there is more than one option for how to cross, it will be particularly important that there is signage to confirm which one is safe and appropriate for each user group. If necessary please would you make this an assisted crossing, a form of Pegasus which can be used by horse riders as well pedestrians and cyclists.

Yours sincerely

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