

Castle Way Junction with A228 Leybourne & West Malling Bypass

Please can we have your views?

A brief update on the Junction 4 Bridge Widening Works

We have had some construction problems with the foundations for the widened bridge but work has now restarted. A further newsletter will be issued when there is more certainty about the remaining construction programme. We remain grateful for your continued patience.



Castle Way junction with A228 Leybourne & West Malling Bypass with temporary ban of right turn movement

Should the temporary ban of the right turn out be made permanent?

The Castle Way junction was constructed in 2006 as part of the A228 Leybourne & West Malling Bypass. It has an unusual layout for right turn movements and this has often attracted comments about its safety.

The right turn out of Castle Way has been temporarily prevented during the M20 Junction 4 eastern bridge widening works to help the management of traffic. The opportunity exists for the current arrangement to be made permanent following completion of the bridge works. To assist making a decision, traffic counts were taken before and after the right turn was prevented.

Some facts

Traffic flows along Castle Way heading towards Junction 4 are not high but have reduced by about 25% to 30%. Traffic flows before were about 20,000 to 26,000 vehicles per week and are now about 15,000 to 17,000 vehicles per week.

In the 5 years between January 2011 and December 2015 (latest date for available data) there have been 12 recorded crashes defined as 'Slight' involving injury. It is considered that up to 9 of these crashes were related to the right turn movement.

The diversion route, turning left and 'U' turning at Park Road roundabout and back to Junction 4, is 1 kilometre (just over half a mile). There is 200m available for Castle Way traffic to weave across to the outside lane of the A228 to 'U' turn at Park Road roundabout. Maximum queues in the right turn lane at the Park Road roundabout traffic signals have been observed as 7 vehicles - just before signals turn from red to green - but queues are often less.

There is currently only one bus service, the Nu-Venture 149/151 Service between Kings Hill and Chatham, that runs on school days that is affected - 13 services per day.

M20 Junction 4

Eastern Bridge Widening



Advantages/Disadvantages - of making the right turn ban permanent

Advantages

- Likelihood of reduced accidents.
- Reduction in traffic using Castle Way to get to Junction 4.
- Traffic signals on A228 approach to Junction 4 can be removed.
- Traffic going south on A228 can exit Junction 4 more freely.

Disadvantages

- 1 kilometre diversion for right turning traffic.
- Increased journey time for Nu-Venture Service 149/151 in Kings Hill - Chatham direction.
- Less convenient for local residents, community facilities and Premier Inn/ Brewers Fayre customers wanting to use Junction 4.
- Leybourne Chase development will add to future movements on Park Road roundabout.

Decision Making Process

Mrs Sarah Hohler, the County Council Member for Malling North division that includes Leybourne, and Leybourne Parish Council are keen that as many local people as possible have the opportunity to express a view. This public response will be considered with all other views by Members of the Tonbridge & Malling Joint Transportation Board.

What you should do now

If you would like to express a view please complete and return the tear off slip below to:

Kent County Council, Highways & Transportation,
Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

or e-mail M20J4MajorProject@kent.gov.uk.

Please include your address so that responses can be related to where people live.

Please return your response by Friday 9 September.

Public Meeting - 2 September

Leybourne Parish Council is also holding a public meeting at 8.00pm on Friday 2 September at the Village Hall.

To:

Kent County Council,
Highways & Transportation,
Major Projects - 1st floor,
Invicta House,
Maidstone
Kent.
ME14 1XX

I agree / disagree (*delete as appropriate*) that the right turn ban out of Castle Way towards M20 Junction 4 should be made permanent.

Name:

Address: