

Petition: main views expressed during the Full Council Debate:

Views expressed included:

- The Petition requested that a viable options be considered which retained the right-hand turn. Although the project was being managed by Crawley Borough Council, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) were responsible for highways and as such that element of the development was not the responsibility of Crawley Borough Council and it was necessary to defer to WSCC on the matter.
- The right-hand turn would have been retained had it been feasible to do so. Ultimately no right-hand turn had been incorporated into the design as its retention had not been deemed feasible.
- Three consultation exercises had already been undertaken in relation to the Scheme. Adjustments had been made to the Scheme as a result of those consultations, including a new access to the eastern platform of the station and engaging a company to carry out a traffic modelling survey to inform the design options.
- Further consultation would not add value.
- Retention of the right-hand turn would cause delay other vehicles travelling along Haslett Avenue East and Worth Park Avenue.
- The Scheme could only be implemented if the highway alterations were signed off by WSCC Highways. If the highway element of the scheme was not agreed no alternative scheme was possible and funding would be withdrawn.
- Engagement of stakeholder views had been lacking.
- The lack of feedback provided to residents had led to the large number of Petition signatories.
- Due to the increase in distance vehicles would be required to make as a result of the loss of the right-hand turn vehicle emissions in the area would increase.
- The data obtained through the traffic modelling survey did not truly represent average traffic movements as it had been carried out during a period when there was reduced traffic movement (ie end of school year and school activities week).
- The loss of the right-hand turn would also affect those who travelled from outside the Borough to use the station. Those users, as they were not Crawley residents, had not been entitled to sign the Petition.
- The loss of the right-hand turn would increase the use of the surrounding roads, including St Mary's Drive, where congestion was already an issue.
- Some information contained within the traffic modelling survey was incorrect (such as increased travel distance and time due to the re-routing due to the loss of the right-hand turn) which called into question the accuracy of other information within the survey.