

## **B4104 Birmingham Road (Millisons Wood to Meriden)**

### **Background**

- 1.1 The scheme starts in Millisons Wood and follows the B4104 Birmingham Road into Meriden Village Centre. The scheme was initially designed at the request for the community and the Parish Council as a school bus service no longer operated and the new facility would provide an option to travel more sustainably. The previous on-carriageway cycling provision was narrow and unsegregated, encouraging high vehicle speeds and acted as deterrent to cycling.



- 1.2 Overall, the changes have been welcomed and supported. However, the following issues have been reported through correspondence with residents, some of whom are keen cyclists.

### **Deterioration of road surface and noise**

- 1.3 Since installation of the cycle lane, it has been reported that the narrowing of the traffic lanes has resulted in an accelerated deterioration of the road surface by causing rutting and potholes to form. These defects are being addressed in this year's resurfacing programme and remedial works are programmed to take place in November, giving time to resolve the other problems.

### **Orca Kerbs**

- 1.4 The design configuration allows cyclists greater space by segregating them using

Orcas. The Orca's, delineating the cycle lane on this section, have been reported to be perceived hazards. During the winter months, the build-up of dirt and spray has concealed the reflective features which creates the inability to see them during the hours of darkness.

- 1.5 Due to the light low-level segregation measures it is difficult to use a conventional street sweeper as they struggle to straddle the 'orcas' without the risk of damaging the equipment. Officers are working with our Street Cleansing Teams and Transport for West Midlands to find a solution whilst still providing a facility that can be used by cyclists safely.
- 1.6 The Orcas also restrict access for the street cleansing equipment which has resulted in processes having to but changes at a significant additional cost, due mainly to the additional travelling time required to reach this location for the smaller road sweepers.

### **Recommendations**

- 1.7 Consultation is on-going with stakeholders and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting. The options being considered include replacing the Orcas with a different form a soft segregation such as a hatched area of carriageway markings. In addition, reducing the speed limit to 30mph, subject to consultation.