

# ***LOWDHAM PARISH COUNCIL***

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## **Proposed changes to the Lowdham roundabout A612 /A6097**

Parishioners may have seen details in the local press regarding proposals to upgrade the roundabout in Lowdham where the A612 crosses the A6097. Prior to the press announcement your Parish Council had not received details regarding the proposal and therefore arranged for a presentation to be given by VIA(EM), who carry out highway's activities for Nottinghamshire County Council, at the Parish Council Meeting on 6 June 2019.

The proposed upgrade is part of a project to upgrade 6 roundabouts between Lowdham and Ollerton which, if approved, will cost £22 million. The cost of the Lowdham improvement itself is currently estimated at £4.5 million.

The upgrade proposes that the current roundabout is enlarged to enable a dual flow of traffic to circulate around the roundabout more easily than at present and for each entrance and exit on the roundabout to be dual lane where possible. In addition, safe crossing of the roads for pedestrians and cyclists has been incorporated which will include a button operated 'Toucan' crossing across the A6097 on the Epperstone side of the roundabout.

The proposals are at an early stage. VIA(EM) has recently started to talk to people who are directly impacted, mainly through needing to acquire land for the planned changes. Your Parish is affected as the current plans would result in some of the cricket field land being required and could possibly require some of the Parish land between the Nottingham bound bus stop on the A612 and the current roundabout.

Clearly the currently proposed changes will raise concerns and queries and VIA(EM) has confirmed that they will be holding consultation sessions at the Magna Charta on 1 August between 4pm and 8pm and the Village Hall on 3 August between 10am and 2pm to hear parishioners' views. At present the proposal is at an early stage and therefore comments made at, or shortly following the consultation may help to shape the final plans.

In terms of timescale VIA(EM) intends to submit its planning and funding application to the Department of Transport in November 2019 where it will need to secure approval to proceed with the proposals. If the application is successful the development of the 6 roundabouts in the overall scheme is currently expected to begin on the Ollerton roundabout in 2021 and progress along the A614 and A6097, finishing with the development of the Lowdham roundabout starting in 2023 with completion in 2024. The disruption in Lowdham is estimated at 12 months.

Following the presentation by VIA(EM) Parish Councillors did raise several queries and concerns relating to the proposal. In particular questions were raised as to whether it would actually deliver any meaningful benefit given the potential for increased traffic due to developments in the area, surrounding Lowdham, the impact of the Gedling relief road and the constraints of Gunthorpe Bridge. In addition, the potential loss of Parish land was discussed. Parishioners will have their own opportunity to view the proposals, ask questions and voice concerns when VIA(EM) hold their consultation events. Your Parish Council will be on hand to listen and collate comments to ensure they are fully considered as the proposal develops.