

Ms Caroline Sumeray
H.M. SENIOR CORONER FOR THE ISLE OF WIGHT
Coroner's Office
Seaclose Offices
Fairlee Road
Newport
Isle of Wight
PO30 2QS

30th April 2021

Dear Ms Sumeray,

Regulation 28 – Yvonne Copland Fatal Collision, Forest Road and Whitehouse Road Junction

We are in receipt of your Regulation 28 Report dated 8th March in relation to the above road traffic collision that occurred on 14th April 2019. We provide the following responses to your concerns as recorded in Part 5 of this report.

1. We note the remarks from [REDACTED] and concur that this is not the easiest of junctions, particularly for those not familiar with the location, and this is not the first time that incident has occurred at this particular junction.
2. It is the case that there are high hedges on the approach to this junction which reduce both the advance visibility of vehicles on the major road (Forest Road) and also restrict visibility in both directions when attempting to exit Whitehouse Lane. It is agreed that there is clear and appropriate signage warning road users of the junction and, as is the case with many cross road arrangements, there is potential for drivers to incorrectly read the road as continuing straight across.
3. The comments in relation to the driver's incumbent responsibilities and their inexperience are noted.
4. It is confirmed that a petition was launched, and this was considered at an Isle of Wight Council Cabinet Meeting. Whilst the intent of the petition was the installation of traffic lights at this junction, it was considered that a full review of junction improvement options was necessary to determine the most effective option. It is the case that traffic light junctions do not eliminate incidents and there remains similar potential for road users to fail to observe the junction or fail to observe the lights. A preference exists for a junction that make a physical change to the layout which requires a driver to deviate from a straight through route. The Council embraced the need for improvements at this junction and committed to fund the necessary option reviews, junction designs and the construction of a new layout.

5. The information recorded in relation to accident probability and severity at this junction is noted and confirmed as correct.
6. As previous, the information recorded in relation to accidents at this junction is noted and confirmed as correct.
7. We confirm that Forest Road is the main strategic route from Newport to West Wight and this junction does fall into the top 10 schemes on the Highway Safety and Improvement Register.
8. Measures are currently being considered for both short and long term improvements at this junction, however no physical changes have yet been implemented to alter hedge alignments. It is expected that junction designs will be commissioned during April 2021 with a view to construction of a scheme in 2022. There will be a requirement to secure third party land once a final design solution is agreed.

We provide below a summary table to show the actions the Council plan to take along with the expected timetable for action.

Ref	Activity	Start Date
1.	Commission outline design options	May 2021
2.	Design Review and Consultation	July 2021
3.	Commit to design option and commission detailed design, commence land purchase (if required)	Sept 2021
4.	Tender process and appointment of delivery contractor	Nov 2021
5.	Works commence	Feb 2022

We trust the information provided in this response fulfils your requirements and we look forward to updating you on progress should you require. In the meantime, we remain ready to provide any further information as may be necessary to assist in the conduct of this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Service Director