

REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF ROAD TRAFFIC MIRROR
CHURCH LANE/SILVER STREET JUNCTION - BARTON

Thank you for your letter of 02 June 2008, which related to the above matter.

I note your request for a Road traffic Mirror to be introduced at the junction in question and understand the reasoning behind the request. Unfortunately it is not for the County Council as Highway Authority to decide whether or not the introduction of a mirror would be appropriate, instead an application has to be made to the Department for Transport which then assesses the situation and decides whether or not permission can be granted for a mirror to be installed.

From past experience, I should advise you that there is a general reluctance on the part of the DfT to sanction the installation of a mirror in all but the most extreme situations of restricted visibility. As you will appreciate, the image produced in a mirror is reversed and distorted and for motorists not familiar with using a mirror, the image of approaching vehicles can be misleading in terms of speed and distance. There are also other problems in terms of sunlight or headlights being reflected and dazzling motorists.

Whilst the situation at the junction of Church Lane and Silver Street is not unduly extreme, as according to the figures given in the Highway Code there is enough visibility distance for a motorist travelling towards Stapleton at a speed of 40 MPH to stop in time to avoid a collision with an emerging vehicle, in view of the fact that there is little scope to improve the situation at the junction, I will however make an application to the DfT for permission to use a mirror. I should however advise you that any decision on the matter by the DfT is likely to take several months.

I trust that you find this information helpful. Once I am aware of the decision of the DfT I will contact you again.
