



**Pedestrian hazard at the junction of the High Street and  
Portesbery Road/Pembroke Broadway, Camberley town centre**

Photograph from Google Maps



The curved arrow superimposed on the photograph above shows a well-used pedestrian route northwards across Portesbery Road, Camberley. The route is defined by tactile studs and a traffic island, and is the main approach to the town centre for many residents.

The straight arrow shows the line of sight roughly eastwards for pedestrians about to cross the road. They cannot see approaching traffic until it is close to the crossing point because their view is blocked by hoardings around the site of the former magistrates court.

It is estimated that a vehicle approaching at 30mph is invisible until it is not much more than two seconds away unless pedestrians stand close to the kerb. This is insufficient warning for people with pushchairs, or those with poor eyesight or limited mobility, especially as they have to cross two traffic lanes to reach the relative security of the central island. Although many vehicles are not travelling so fast, it is unreasonable to expect pedestrians to step into the road on the assumption that they will be safe.

The hoardings that obstruct visibility have been in place for years. Though they are presumably 'temporary', they may one day be replaced by a permanent building. So a permanent solution to the problem crossing is needed.

One option appears to be to move the tactile studs and central traffic island eastwards a relatively short distance. The road there seems wide enough to accommodate a crossing point, and visibility for pedestrians would be significantly improved.

Alternatively, since much of Portesbery Road is quite narrow, there is little real benefit to traffic from the current broadening into two lanes close to the roundabout. The pavement could therefore be extended into what at the moment is the nearside lane, substantially extending the line of sight for pedestrians and shortening the distance that they have to travel to reach the central traffic island.

Is either of these options something that the county council believes to be effective and feasible? If not, what alternative solutions can be implemented?



David Chesneau  
Chair, The Camberley Society

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*The formal aims of the Society, which is a registered Charity, are:*

- (1) *To stimulate public interest in the Camberley area*
- (2) *To promote civic pride in the area.*
- (3) *To promote high standards of amenity related to both the natural environment and the physical development in the area.*
- (4) *To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area*
- (5) *To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area.*