



View of footpath of pedestrian railway bridge (north of railway line - Weymouth Street)



Issues analysis

2.4 Access and movement

Aims and objectives

An aim of the development will be to overcome local highway constraints to minimise the overall impact of the development.

Existing Highways Constraints

Highway access to the Manor Estate is currently regarded as substandard; primarily the alignment and width of Featherbed Lane, the bridge over the railway and the inadequate junction visibility of Featherbed Lane with King Edward Street and the junction to London Road.

The pedestrian link to the main retail area in London Road and the railway station involves crossing the railway via an existing footbridge to Kents Avenue. The steps to the footbridge are very steep and currently not accessible by all sections of the community.

The Highway Authority have highlighted deficiencies within London Road, including vehicle turning movements and the location of the pedestrian crossing facilities.

Featherbed Lane is narrow and the bridge over the railway of sub standard width. The primary objective of any improvement is road safety and therefore the final solution should demonstrate how this objective could be achieved.



King Edward Street



Local shops and services -
London Road

The improvements to Featherbed Lane, the railway bridge and London Road will provide benefits for all users of the roads including the future residents of the Manor Estate.

A scheme for overcoming the Highway Authority's concern in respect of London Road was prepared and agreed prior to the Local Plan Inquiry.

Access to A41T

The public participation process again raised the question of alternative access points into the Manor Estate, especially from the A41T.

The principle of access onto Featherbed Lane has been agreed by the Highway Authority. Access onto the A41 conflicts with highway policy and would be a less safe alternative.

Opportunities - public transport

The proposed development provides the opportunity to provide a new bus service to the area and to create a regular bus service to the site for the benefit of both new and existing residents.

Development of the site provides an opportunity to enhance existing pedestrian and cycle connections to local services and the nearby Apsley railway station.



Apsley Station - opportunities to improve pedestrian and cycle links to key facility