New bridge crossing (option 3)

This indicative concept shows how a new single carriageway width bridge could work in tandem with the existing. A variety of options for a new junction to Featherbed Lane and King Edward Street will need to be considered further and agreed by the Hertfordshire County Highways.
Programme of works

A plan will be submitted to outline and explain the programme of highway improvement works. These will be phased. The plan will state which works will take place before construction of the housing and which will be programmed at other times. The Council as local planning authority requires works to Featherbed Lane to enable safe two-way working to precede housing construction.

Featherbed Lane

Featherbed Lane should be examined and options for improving the access should be undertaken. The primary objective of any improvement has to be road safety and minimising disruption to existing residents.

Key elements of the work will include:
- Improvements to the junctions of Featherbed Lane with Orchard Street and London Road.
- Widening of Featherbed Lane north of the railway bridge.
- Improvements to the railway crossing.
- Improvements to the junction of Featherbed Lane and King Edward Street
- Widening and reconstruction of Featherbed Lane south of the railway bridge.
- Temporary signals on the bridge crossing.

These improvements, except for the bridge crossing, must be completed before the development commences.

Construction access

During the periods of construction, construction traffic will have to gain access to the site. The key construction access point will be from Featherbed Lane. Only limited construction access (eg for construction of the footbridge and where needed to ensure safe working on the development site) should be taken from King Edward Street. A plan will be submitted to show how construction access will normally be arranged and this will be subject to a planning agreement tied to any approval of a planning application. The council expects the hours of work and potential nuisance arising by builders to be controlled to avoid unnecessary disturbance to existing residents.

Key approaches to facilitating construction traffic include:
- Access for residents will be maintained to the Manor Estate and beyond via the existing railway bridge.
- Pedestrian access will be maintained via the existing railway bridge.
- Featherbed Lane will be widened on each approach to the bridge to facilitate the traffic signal control that will be necessary during the early part of the construction period.

Trees removed to enable highway works to be undertaken should be replaced as appropriate.

Footbridge Improvements

The footbridge leading to Kents Avenue must be upgraded to make it more user friendly. The steps will be replaced by a step/ramp combination and must be suitable for access by push chairs. Achieving a convenient access for residents is a prime objective as is an aesthetically pleasing result.
Pedestrian priority streets will provide a safer environment and a safer modern version of the local ‘snicket’.