

## COUNCILLOR SAYS LORRY DRIVERS ARE PUTTING PEDESTRIANS AT RISK

# Bollard stops dangerous shortcut at roundabout

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A COUNCIL has moved to stop corner-cutting lorry drivers hitting pedestrians at a busy roundabout.

Southend Council has installed a bollard at the edge of Cuckoo Corner, to stop drivers taking a shortcut over the pavement between Prince Avenue and Manners Way.

The dangerous moves meant motorists came within inches of pedestrians waiting to cross the road.

Adam Jones, a Tory councillor for St Laurence, campaigned for

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the bollard to be installed after witnessing a string of near misses.

He said: “It seems large vehicles, particularly lorries, are clipping the corner as they drive over the roundabout.

“I’ve stood there myself and witnessed it several times.

“It’s only a matter of inches, but it’s enough to be very dangerous as pedestrians do wait at the edge of the road.”

As part of the £5million reworking of Cuckoo Corner earlier this year, the approach along Prince Avenue was changed from two



■ Pleased with protective bollard – councillor Adam Jones and resident Terry Davis, who first raised the problem of lorry drivers cutting the corner at Cuckoo Corner

Picture: PAUL WATSON BA52756

lanes to three lanes. The change was designed to speed up traffic moving through the junction.

However, although the road was widened overall, the new lanes are narrower than their predecessors.

Drivers in the new far left lane are allowed to either turn left

into Manners Way or carry straight on into Priory Crescent.

A pelican crossing is located between Manners Way and Prince Avenue, which pedestrians use to cross Manners Way.

Mr Jones said most of the problems occurred when lorries took the junction at speed.

He said: “Because it is narrow there now, they might just mount the kerb, because they are trying to manoeuvre and give other vehicles enough space.

“The bollard is right on the corner, so we will have to see if that solves the problem or whether the road needs further adjust-

ment. The important part is officers have acted quickly to ensure pedestrians are safe.”

Andrew Meddle, the council’s head of planning and transport, said: “The bollard will prevent heavy goods vehicles from cutting the corner and provide an added protection for pedestrians.

## MP visits Falklands to honour soldiers

AN MP has visited the Falklands to lay a wreath in memory of British servicemen.

Mark Francois, Rayleigh and Wickford MP, visited the islands with three other MPs to lay wreaths at the Liberation Monument, in Port Stanley, commemorating the members of the Armed forces who gave their lives to liberate the Falklands from Argentinean invasion in 1982.

During the trip, the MPs visited the current British garrison at Mount Pleasant Airfield. He spoke to troops and Royal Air Force pilots, who fly the Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft which form part of the Island’s defence system.

Mr Francois said the trip was paid for by the Falkland Islands’

government and there was no cost to the UK taxpayer.

He said: “I was honoured to lead a parliamentary delegation to the Falklands this November, and to spend the best part of a week getting to know both the Island and the Islanders.

“It is absolutely clear to me the Falkland Islanders wish to remain British. The Government is completely committed to honouring that wish, in line with the principle of self determination.

“It is the 30th anniversary of the Falkland’s War next year, so it seemed an appropriate time for a delegation of MPs to visit the islands, to remind them of the strong support at Westminster for their continuing link with Britain.”

## Driving school passes the test



■ Receiving his certificate – Tariq Musaji with Essex county councillor Roger Walters

A DRIVING instructor has become the first in Essex to win the stamp of approval from the county’s trading standards.

Farrah Driver Training offers lessons throughout the Basildon and Southend areas.

It has now been chosen to receive a reputable business badge by Essex County Council.

Company director Tariq Musaji, 43, was delighted to received the council’s certificate.

He said: “Hopefully it will reassure the public the business has undergone a thorough vetting.

“Driving schools are not immune to the recession and there is a lot of competition.

“Hopefully this will give me the edge. We aim to provide a value for money service at a time when household incomes are being reduced.”

The driving school will now be monitored regularly by trading standards.

Mr Musaji believes the monitoring will help him offer a better service.

Businesses from any sector can apply to join the scheme.

However, they undergo a long and thorough auditing process before they are accepted.

Mr Musaji received his accolade from councillor Roger Walters during an awards ceremony at Bishops Hill Grand Hall on Rayleigh Road, Hutton.