



The junction with Ashford Road and Beacon Oak Road



Cllr Sue Ferguson who campaigned against the traffic lights

Delight as developers decide to ditch traffic lights proposal

by Rachael Woods
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A developer's U-turn over plans to install traffic lights at a busy Tenterden junction has been hailed as a "victory for the people".

Redrow Homes, the firm building 100 houses at Tilden Gill, says it has listened to the concerns of the town's residents and announced it will build a roundabout at the junction of Beacon Oak Road and the A28 Ashford Road instead.

Town councillor Sue Ferguson, who spearheaded a campaign against the traffic lights, leafletting hundreds of residents about the plan, says she is delighted.

"It's a victory for the people," she said.

"Traffic lights at that junction would have caused massive congestion as Tenterden is so busy that even temporary roadworks cause huge jams.

"I'm really proud of all the people who went onto Ashford Borough Council's planning portal to register their objections.

"We have been successful as we had an entirely reasonable case."

Tenterden Town Council (TTC) objected to the traffic lights and commissioned an independent review that showed a roundabout



The busy junction's future has been unclear

would be the most effective way to manage traffic.

Redrow Homes had proposed traffic lights for the junction as building the roundabout involves relocating a BT fibre optic box, but the housing firm now says it is prepared to shoulder the £400,000 cost.

The firm said that despite Kent County Council giving its permission for the lights at the junction, it has taken heed of "the strength of local feeling" and that consulting with both Tenterden Town Council and Ashford Borough Council had led the firm to "appreciate residents' views that traffic lights at the junction are not appropriate for the area".

David Banfield, planning director at Redrow, said: "As part of our plans for new homes to the south of Tilden Gill Road, we

have been working closely with the council to plan for highway improvements that will work for Tenterden.

"Local people have been loud and clear they do not want traffic lights at this junction.

"We have listened to public opinion and are now taking forward the original plans for a roundabout."

TTC's chair of planning, Cllr John Crawford, described the move as "good news".

He added: "As far as the council is concerned, a roundabout is the sensible solution, which will help manage the increasing flow of traffic into the town."

■ What do you think about the U-turn? Write to Kentish Express, Unit 4, Park Mall shopping centre, Ashford TN24 8RY or email kentishexpress@thekmgrou.co.uk