

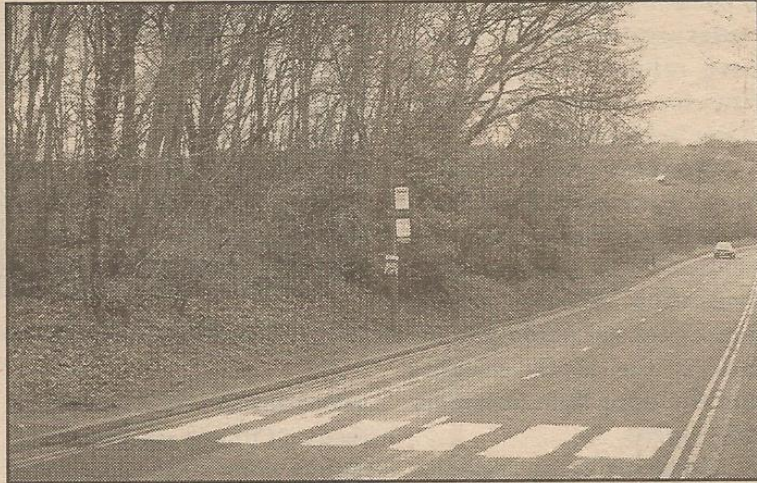
Battle of Gibbet Hill

David Fawbert

DESPITE THE FACT that only a few paint marks now remain of the temporary Gibbet Hill crossing, its painting has put the entire issue of a crossing very much back in the spotlight. Whilst the University and the Students' Union are united in their support for a crossing, Coventry City Council is refusing to grant planning permission.

The crossing would allow students to cross from the Gibbet Hill bus stop to the Gibbet Hill Campus over what is currently a treacherous stretch of road. The University has agreed to fund the crossing as part of its continuing developments in pedestrian safety.

The implementation of a crossing was a prominent feature in many Students' Union Sabbatical Officer candidates' election campaigns, notably that of Adam Boddison, who also holds the position of Students' Union representative for the Sciences. Boddison has been heavily involved in petitioning the Council, and recent estimations indicate that



Gibbet Hill: students urged to support crossing

about a thousand signatures have been recorded.

Coventry City Council is of the opinion that there is not enough demand for a crossing. Boddison, however said: "Staff and students are scared to get off the bus at this point, and so get off at main campus, and walk up the hill. This would spoil the count made by the council."

Another objection put forward by the Council is that building a crossing on such a bend would create a more dangerous road system. Boddison counters this, though, by proposing a reduction of the speed limit

and the placement of the crossing further down the road, away from the bend.

Welfare and Equal Opportunities Officer, Scott Ashby, is taking a particular interest in the campaign: "The Union has fought hard for this crossing and the University have been very supportive. We can win this but we need even more student support, whether that be letters to the Council or signing the petition. It is vital that we and even next years officers continue this strong campaign with the University for an essential Gibbet Hill crossing."