

VITAL link roads must be built between a bridge over the A40 East of Oxford and Forest Hill when dangerous gaps in the dual carriageway are closed, councillors decided.

Members of the Oxfordshire County Council's environmental committee heard that Forest Hill villagers could be effectively cut off from their nearest shops and services in Wheatley if the roads were not built.

They agreed to urge the Department of Transport to build the roads at a junction of the A40 and B4027 road to Islip at the earliest opportunity.

Earlier this month, the DoT announced that the gaps would be closed in February and later blocked off completely because of a series of accidents caused by cars turning right at the notorious black spot on the dual carriageway.

The councillor for Forest Hill, Mr David Markham (Con) said: "We wanted these gaps closed, together with improvements to the

By ANDY CAVE

Holton flyover which would allow it to function properly as a flyover."

At present traffic cannot come off the A40 on to the flyover from the London direction and on the other side of the road it is not linked to the B4027 road.

Mr Markham said: "If the gaps are closed unilaterally without the slip roads being completed, considerable inconvenience will result, especially for people living in the north of the community".

County Surveyor and Engineer Mr John Peverel-Cooper said the work would cost about £1m. and would be the subject of a public inquiry on February 13.

