

MEOLE COLUMN & SUTTON LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & SUGGESTION RESPONSE:

Question, Comment or Suggestion	Response
<p>1) It was requested that the Committee look into the possibility of an additional bus stop for Pendle Way/Washford Road. Residents had previously requested an additional bus stop but objections had been received by Shropshire Council from residents of Washford Road.</p>	<p>Shropshire Council has considered the possibility of an additional bus stop for Pendle Way / Washford Road, as requested by residents, and have concluded that there isn't an appropriate location. Officers have also considered the possibility of changing the direction of the bus route so that bus stops would be on the opposite side of the road but it is considered that this would not be feasible.</p> <p>Residents have the option to use the dial a ride facility. This offers fully accessible vehicles, flexible journey times, and the option of using the Concessionary Bus Pass giving free travel for eligible residents. To make a booking please call 01743 450270</p>
<p>2) A member of the public provided a written question after the meeting stating that the public are encouraged to use buses but that there are often no bus shelters to wait in the dry during inclement weather.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the bus stops / shelters in St Mary's Street were narrow and that the seats are not under the shelter. Can any improvements be made.</p>	<p>The provision of bus shelters are the responsibility of Shrewsbury Town Council. Officers acknowledge that it is preferable to have bus shelters available particularly in periods of inclement weather.</p> <p>The width of the pavement in St Mary's Street makes the provision of under cover seating difficult. If there are any suggestions for the location of bus shelters please contact Shrewsbury Town Council on 01743 281010.</p>

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<p>3) Grass cutting on Meole Estate. Currently two different contractors are used and it was requested that one contractor cut the grass on one estate and the other contractor cut the grass on the other estate as they both performed differently. (ie. one collects the grass the other leaves it / cuts at different times)</p>	<p>Sevenside Housing Association's contractors "Vale" cut the grass areas that belong to Sevenside and they collect this up. Highway verges and small amenity land belonging to Shropshire Council, is cut by the Shrewsbury Town Council which is not picked up, but is cut between 16 and 20 times a year depending on climatic conditions.</p> <p>The Council is responsible for cutting the grass for a wide range of areas and the additional costs for collecting grass at these locations would be significant. The Council cuts the grass more frequently if climatic conditions make it necessary.</p> <p>Meole is similar to other areas of the Town in that it has a mixture of this land ownership. Sevenside, as a private concern, have their own contract with "Vale", and Shropshire Council has a contract with the Town Council which has been in place for many years. It is considered unfeasible for the respective contractors to cut the grass on land which is not their responsibility.</p>
<p>4) It was suggested that the speed be reduced between the Sainsbury roundabout and Meole Brace roundabout as people had been knocked over by motorists speeding up to make the lights at the other end.</p>	<p>Shropshire Council are not aware of any of these incidences and there have recently been works carried out to upgrade the existing signal controlled crossing at this location to a puffin crossing, which also caters for the needs of cyclists crossing. It is currently thought that further work is not necessary. The speed limit is already 40mph and is not currently proposed to be reduced. If there are any incidences these should be reported to Shropshire Council (0345 678 9000) to provide evidence that further work is required.</p>

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<p>5) It was suggested that the new markings at Longden Island should include some pedestrian provision (currently cycling only)</p>	<p>Whilst the recent improvements carried out at Longden Road roundabout were paid for by Cycle Shrewsbury, the measures have been designed to benefit both pedestrians and cyclists. The crossing on the Roman Road south-west arm has been made a 'shared' surface for pedestrians and cycles, due to the volumes of people which cross at this location around school opening and closing times. Cycle symbols are marked in the pavement near to this crossing to make pedestrians aware of the presence of cycles and to indicate to cyclists that they are permitted to use the facility.</p> <p>The green coloured surfacing which has recently been laid at the crossings around the junction is a trial scheme; the objective of this is to make it easier for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road. The contrasting surface at the crossings takes its inspiration from the 'courtesy' crossing points in the town centre, as it highlights the crossing points to vehicles. We hope that drivers will give more consideration to people crossing road at the junction. The surfacing has been laid at both the pedestrian crossings and shared use crossings.</p>
<p>6) Refuse collection at Whitton Close. Due to parked cars, refuse vehicles mount the pavements and grass areas which left marks on the grass and mud on the pavements which was a slip hazard for residents.</p>	<p>The reason that the refuse vehicles mount pavements is in order to empty the bins, and this is frequently because of parked cars. Given the choice between going onto the pavement or leaving bins unemptied the driver will usually go for the first option.</p> <p>Officers have spoken to the Veolia Depot Manager for the Shrewsbury area and he will ask the crew in question to make a note of this to find out if it is a recurring problem. If it is we will take advice form Highways/Traffic Management to see how this can be addressed.</p>

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<p>7) A member of the public questioned whether there had been any feedback regarding buses using Sutton Road</p>	<p>It was reported at the meeting in March that:-</p> <p>The addition of a sign 'no buses' would go against the specific list of vehicles that are exempt the 7.5t environmental weight limit on Sutton Road - the order contains a specific exclusion for PSVs. Further it is not a prescribed sign within the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002.</p> <p>Having an environmental weight restriction with differing exclusions within or immediately adjacent to another environmental weight restriction is only likely to cause confusion to motorists and lead to enforcement difficulties. Recent traffic flow data indicates that the number of buses or coaches using this length of road is minimal in comparison to other vehicle types - i.e. for approximately every 1,200 vehicle movements detected on the road only one was a bus or coach. Trading standards have been requested, subject to availability of resources, to give consideration to carrying out enforcement of the weight restriction.</p> <p>The Passenger Transport Compliance Team have contacted Arriva to make them aware of residents concerns. Arriva are notifying their drivers and have requested that if there are further instances of off duty buses using this stretch of road it would be beneficial if the time and date could be recorded so that it can be provided as evidence.</p>
<p>8) A member of the public asked what progress had been made with respect to disabled parking spaces in the town centre and in particular having them on the left hand side to the road to</p>	<p>This comment has been passed to officers and will be considered in future town centre improvement works.</p>

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<p>9) A member of the public commented favourably about the meeting. He felt that there had been a good balance between the problems in the area and the strategic issues which had been set out well and were really useful.</p>	<p>This comment was noted. The Committee will continue to maintain a balance between issues of a local interest and wider strategic issues.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to suggest areas of interest to be considered for future meetings.</p>

Positive comments on issue raised at previous meetings
<p>At the Meole, Column & Sutton LJC meeting in January 2010 residents highlighted concerns regarding Shropshire Council staff parking in Laundry Lane. Since the last meeting the Committee has received the following positive comments regarding how this issue has been addressed :-</p> <p>“The residents of Laundry Lane and Kenton Drive would like to record their appreciation of the help and support received from both local councillors as well as that from Shropshire Council, particularly Erica Garner and Kevin Humphreys, which has helped to resolve the parking issues which had caused some considerable inconvenience not to mention danger to those drivers using Laundry Lane. Also thanks to Mike Davies for pursuing the parking restriction requirements as agreed with those residents from Laundry Lane which he met at our last meeting at The Hollies”</p>