

MEOLE BRACE ISLAND PETITION

A summary of the Issues to put before the Council Meeting of 15 December 2016.

1. Roman Road towards Meole Brace Retail Park roundabout.

The design proposals for the Meole Brace Roundabout with a road cut through from the Roman Road towards Meole Retail Park will increase traffic volumes arriving at Meole Retail Park roundabout which is already congested.

It is our opinion that should the proposed new traffic lights fail then the cut through could be dangerous. Ordinarily roundabouts will function when traffic lights fail due to their simplicity of design and user familiarity.

This scheme makes current congestion at the Meole Retail Park roundabout worse and increases the likelihood of an accident. The cut through road should be removed.

2. Roman Road towards Hazeldine Way and onwards to Telford Way (the Inner Ring Road).

There are housing development proposals in Shrewsbury West towards Bicton Heath.

There are also proposals to site 'real time' Traffic Information Messaging boards at various approaches to Shrewsbury. Their purpose, we understand, is to give drivers information that it is hoped will direct traffic towards the Inner Ring Road rather than through the town centre.

We would therefore expect to see additional traffic going from the Roman Road and turning left into Hazeldine Way. We consider this should be treated as a significant priority.

A re-design could develop this left turning function and satisfy Shrewsbury town residents that there is a commitment to reduce town centre 'through traffic' from Shrewsbury West towards Harlescott.

This should be the priority route, not as designed towards Meole Brace Retail Park.
(See arrow on plan)

3. The Status of Meole Brace Island.

Many of the 4500+ who signed this petition did so because they value the Island as a quality gateway to Shrewsbury, and value the trees and wildlife (mainly rabbits and hedgehogs) that have found sanctuary there.

Many who signed this petition did so because over some 15 years or more this island has functioned well as a traffic management entity, and they consider that the Meole Retail Park access is a significant congestion problem and it is this that needs to be addressed.

The 239 responses from the consultation process were an inadequate representation of wider public views, compared with our petition of some 4500+ signatures which shows major concern regarding the proposals for the Meole Brace Island.

4. Governance and Political Oversight.

The more the petitioners study the proposals for Meole Brace Island the more we become convinced that this is not, after all, a traffic management scheme but a scheme to justify access to central government funds provided through the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership.

We would ask you to delay this scheme to allow a detailed review to take place in order to address the concerns of the petitioners and produce a new or revised scheme.