

Agenda Item 13 Questions from Members

Question from Councillor Ruth Houghton

There are a number of sites across South and South West Shropshire where temporary traffic lights have been in place for more than 12 months. In fact, in the Bishop's Castle division temporary lights were on the A488 for nearly 11 months with little visible sign of any work having been undertaken before they were removed. In Chirbury and Clun divisions landslips occurred on the same day in February 2020 and both sites still have temporary traffic lights some 18 months on.

How many sites in Shropshire currently have temporary traffic lights where they have been in place for more than 6 months or longer? and what has been the total cost of temporary traffic lights in place for over 6 months during the 2020/21 financial year? Obviously, members of the public want to know why traffic lights are in situ and when the necessary work will be completed enabling them to be removed, given this level of interest what arrangements are in place for the regular review and monitoring of sites where long-term temporary traffic lights are in use?

Response from Cllr Steve Charmley – Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure, Highways and Built Housing

It is appreciated that local communities and road users in the area will be frustrated by the lengthy period which these temporary traffic lights have been in place. The nature of the landslips however mean that they require both complex and costly repairs and also negotiations with private landowners to bring about the required outcome, and this all takes time to develop. The cost of delivering the schemes is also reliant on funding from already stretched capital budgets. The highways team are however actively working towards providing cost-effective solutions that will ensure the roads can be re-opened as quickly as soon as practicable