

**COUNCIL 24 FEBRUARY 2022
MEMBER QUESTIONS**

Question from Councillor Rob Wilson

What is the current status of the traffic filter on Crowmeole Lane in Shrewsbury, and what plans does the council have to make it permanent? What does the council propose to do about displaced traffic that is affecting nearby roads – for example Oakfield Road where a local resident has gathered a petition of 58 signatures concerned that their road has become a rat run?

Response from Councillor Ian Nellins, Portfolio Holder for Climate change, Natural Assets & Green Economy

What is the current status of the traffic filter on Crowmeole Lane in Shrewsbury, and what plans does the council have to make it permanent?

The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) that allows for the point closure currently in place on Crowmeole Lane expires on 18 Sept 2022. A report is being prepared for Cabinet on 9 March 2022 with a recommendation for a follow-up bus gates trial which is proposed to be in place for a period of 18 months. Bus gates are enforceable under the 2006 amendment to the Bus Lane Contraventions (Approved Local Authorities) (England) Order 2005 using camera technology such as Automated Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) or Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) should it be agreed that this type of technology is adopted.

What does the council propose to do about displaced traffic that is affecting nearby roads – for example Oakfield Road where a local resident has gathered a petition of 58 signatures concerned that their road has become a rat run?

There has been an increase in vehicular traffic on surrounding roads as a result of the bus gates trial as evidenced by the traffic surveys undertaken during the Crowmeole Lane point closure which saw a 32% increase in daily traffic flows on Oakfield Road and a 10% increase in daily traffic flows on Red Deer Lane. Even with this increase, daily vehicle flows along both these roads remains moderate and speeds have remained the same with both routes comfortably within the posted speed limits (30mph). As part of Shropshire Council's statutory duty under the Road Traffic Act 1988, it is required, in conjunction with West Mercia

Police, to identify and assess accident cluster sites as well as develop and prioritise appropriate measures to prevent road accidents from occurring. To date, neither Oakfield Road nor Red Deer Lane have been identified as accident cluster sites with known highway risks. Further with other intended Active Travel measures such as the LCWIP or Movement Strategy then this will support displacement, or the measures could be withdrawn.

Question from Councillor Rob Wilson

As part of the programme to purchase temporary accommodation supported by Full Council on 13th January 2022, has the council considered prefabricated units such as those developed by SoloHaus which are manufactured in Shrewsbury by Volumetric Homes. These are said to feature the highest standards of sustainability, efficiency, safety and durability; and have already been adopted by other Local Authorities.

Response from Councillor Dean Carroll, Portfolio Holder for Physical Infrastructure

Shropshire Council will explore the option of modular units of accommodation, alongside other alternatives, and subject to the appropriate procurement processes for the delivery of new homes for use as Temporary Accommodation. The location of any such units is also a key consideration. The siting would need to be considered sensitively and be subject to appropriate community consultation and planning approvals.

Question from Councillors David Evans and Hilary Luff

What are Shropshire Council's plans for the next round of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) for Craven Arms.

Will the Council ensure that we are submitting the bid and doubling down efforts to secure government funds for the economic growth for the Town of Craven Arms.

We have Business's that need to relocate in order to expand.

The previous Levelling Up bid was designed to enable the Bid was designed to enable the unlocking of land for the regeneration of Craven Arms.

Can we be reassured that this bid will be resubmitted in the next round of Levelling Up, so we can strengthen the economy in the town for future growth.

Response from Councillor Ed Potter, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration and Planning

The Council has received the levelling up white paper from Government and is currently reviewing in more detail to understand the impacts and opportunities for Shropshire. From what we understand, another round of Levelling up will be announced in the Spring. We have had feedback on our bids in the first round which were well received by Government, but clearly not successful. We were advised that Craven Arms has issues regarding value for money and we are working on reviewing this to enable the bid to have the best chance in a future round. The guidance on future rounds hasn't been announced yet so until that has been made available it isn't possible to be definitive on whether Craven Arms will be eligible. However, we are committed to trying to find a way to deliver the growth that Craven Arms wants and if the Levelling Up fund isn't the right route, we will continue to explore any other funding routes available.