

CABINET – 18 JANUARY 2023

MEMBER QUESTIONS

1 Councillor Peter Broomhall

Wem Town Council has a Traffic Working Group working with SC to progress serious traffic issues around the town. The group has identified key projects including a one-way system.

Whilst initially it was hoped that an experimental traffic order would be the way to trial a one-way system, following statutory consultees responses it became evident that more research should be carried out into the potential impact that any one-way system may have. This will help ensure new problems are not created in the town as a result.

WTC is of the opinion that a Traffic Impact Assessment should be commissioned into:

- **The creation of a clockwise or anti clockwise one way system around the town.**
- **The reversal of the existing one-way priorities on two streets to enable access to the main car park.**
- **The management of traffic around Maunds Corner.**

The latest correspondence from SC was that they wanted WTC to pay 35K for the TIA; not money that WTC has!

Consequently WTC would like to formally request that SC funds WSP (UK) to undertake a TIA into the above proposals. Whilst there will be a cost to this WTC is of the view that TIA's are the responsibility of SC as our Highways Authority.

This TIA request will be a beneficial use of SC's budget; it helps revive the economy of the town and ensures that when a one-way system is in place all possible options and impacts have been considered/accounted for. **Will the portfolio holder support this request?**

2 Councillor Julia Buckley

Can the Council's estate team please provide a list of the top 5 Council-owned or leased buildings/assets based on energy consumption/energy bills for each building, by quarter over the last 12 months?

What measures have been taken or are planned to reduce energy consumption in these buildings?

Have any of these high-energy use buildings been investigated, identified, or ruled out, so far for potential renewable energy creation projects?

3 Councillor Rosemary Dartnall

Defective street lights in the triple division are numerous and longstanding. Lights remain out for weeks, even months, on end. Some streets have five or six lamps not working. Problems include faulty bulbs, replacement units needed or even dismembered columns, some of which have been dismantled for six months and more. In asking colleagues, it's clear this is not just a Shrewsbury issue but one that applies across Shropshire – perhaps the 2022-23 equivalent of the pothole plague, which seems now to be under control with good progress being made.

Officers have told me that the target for repair is five days, but that at present this may reach 15 days due to wider winter pressures. However, these time scales bear no resemblance to the reality, which is particularly felt by elderly residents in the dark mid-winter.

Could the portfolio-holder please clarify the problems causing such long delays and what mitigation plans are in place, including the following;

- What percentage of Shropshire lights are not working currently?
- What is the true waiting time for repair?
- Are there supply issues with parts, as reported immediately following the lockdowns of 2020/21?
- Is this work part of the wider contract with Kier?
- Who is accountable for non-delivery of this service within the agreed timescale?
- What mitigations apply in the case of poor service levels?
- When, and how, will repairs be made within the target of five working days?

4 Councillor Kate Halliday

This autumn residents and myself put in multiple requests to have the roads and pavements in Belle Vue swept following the autumn leaf fall. Unfortunately to my knowledge there were no roads or pavements swept before New Year despite repeated requests. The issue of leaf debris is of great concern for a number of reasons including:

- Coleham experiences flooding and the drains are becoming blocked as the leaves have not been swept up. This will increase the flooding risk.

- The unswept pavements become slippery and make walking difficult, especially for people with mobility issues. I have had contact from a number of residents who want to maintain their health by walking, but have been put off from doing so due to the slippery condition of the pavements.
- Residents are walking on the road rather than the pavements, as there is often less debris there, to avoid slipping which is a danger to themselves and others.

Could Cabinet confirm:

- How many divisions have had the roads/pavements swept of leaves before the New Year?
- Is it the council's intention not to sweep the streets and pavements in Belle Vue and other divisions until the New Year in the future?
- When can residents expect all the streets and pavements to be swept of leaves in Belle Vue?
- What is the completion date for sweeping the autumn leaf fall for the county?

5 Councillor Edward Towers

We have been made aware of a consultation being held regarding proposed charges for road closures that are going to be discussed at SC Cabinet on 18th January 2023.

The scope of this consultation is very broad as it encompasses events that do not raise revenue as well as those that do. Consequently, if this proposal was likely to be implemented in full it is likely to seriously affect any Remembrance Road Closures, Christmas Light Switch-on Road Closures, and other events such as for Parades for a Coronation and Olympic torch processions; all of which do not raise money. Events that are organised by Town Councils, charity and non-profit organisations (such as Town Carnivals) should be exempt. Road closing charges for these groups, if they could be found, would add to the severe impact being felt in our small towns and communities and, for some events, be a further barrier to happening at all.

Could the Portfolio holder:

- 1. agree that this consultation should only relate to events organised by commercial organisations that do this for a range of business-related purposes?**

- 2. explain exactly what expenses are incurred by Shropshire Council by these road closures?**
- 3. Say what is the cost of this consultation as it is broadly proposed, and whether the cost in administering the proposed scheme will be in excess of the amount raised?**