

Member Questions

Cabinet – 13 December 2023

Cllr David Vasmer

We all support the idea that more people should be walking and cycling to and from work but there is a problem with some routes into town because they are only part lit. This means that people who need to start work very early in the morning or leave work late at night are discouraged from walking or cycling.

When part time lighting was introduced, certain roads and paths were exempt and allowed to stay on from dawn to dusk.

However there is no exemption for popular pedestrian and cycle routes such as the one between Corinthian Drive and Underdale Road.

Would the portfolio holder for the Climate Change, Environment and Transport, reconsider exemptions to part time lighting to encourage more people to travel to and from work and consult with all members where these exemptions might be appropriate?

Cllr Ruth Houghton

Norbury School is a small primary school and nursery in South Shropshire located on a busy 60mph road with limited off road parking, a short stretch of narrow pavement and a discretionary 30mph speed limit. Due to the rural location most pupils travel by car or mini bus to the school. The local Parish Council with the support of a neighbouring land owner, are investing in the development of some additional off road parking, subject to planning approval. Whilst this provides some help towards addressing the parking problem it does not address the ongoing road safety issues.

Shropshire have recently been allocated £153m by Central Government (Shrewsbury and Atcham MP, Shropshire star 22.11.23) to fix pot holes and undertake other Highway improvements.

Will the portfolio Holder confirm that some of this funding allocation will be allocated to prioritising the implementation of a 20mph mandatory speed limit outside Norbury school and to improving the pavement and pedestrian access to the school?

Cllr Joyce Barrow

Can you update me on the progress being made on the Innovation Park in Oswestry.?

When will the infrastructure be in place?

What interest has there been from businesses? and what will be the benefits to the town economically, and how many jobs are predicted to be created.

What are we doing to promote the site and the benefits of having a business in Oswestry.

Cllr Nick Bardsley

I welcome the Council's decision to progress the development of the first local authority owned Pyrolysis facility in the UK. Given that Shropshire is the second largest generator of renewable energy nationally clearly we are at the forefront of the UK climate adaptation agenda and forging a path for other councils to follow. Preparing the county's critical infrastructure to be fit for the future and be a

sustainable competitive green economy, requires bold leadership and decision making.

I, like the majority of Councillors welcome the government's confidence in Shropshire and in particular the recent announcement in relation to fully funding the North West Relief Road.

I recognise that opinions differ and I respect the sincerely held views of those who take a different view to mine.

However I am disturbed at the misinformation being peddled by a vocal minority, especially that one of the trees affected by the development has anything at all to do with Charles Darwin. To the best of my belief this is nonsense. Can the Portfolio holder clarify the matter and also outline what plans the council has to plant and replace trees as part of our wider programmes?

Cllr Julian Dean

Cabinet members will be aware of the levels of concern regarding the veteran trees that are due to be removed should the North West Relief Road go ahead on it's planned route. Given that planning conditions are not yet agreed, that the full business case is not yet drafted or agreed by council, and that DfT funding is not yet secured, can the portfolio holder assure the public that no works will be carried out that might damage the longevity of the veteran trees unless and until all these conditions are met?