

CABINET
4 DECEMBER 2024
PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Gareth Jones

I was supportive of the original Experimental Traffic Order (ETRO) that was implemented outside the surrounding roads at Mereside School. However, the decision to extend the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) to cover any access to Sutton Way, Children's Way and part of Wenlock Road means parents who need to use their own transport can no longer access the only viable and safe car park at Mereside Community Centre I now have to park near and cross a busy main road with several children in tow. With the school having neither the budget or resource to support a 'Walking Bus' (as well as a lack of communication and support from the Sustainable Transport Team) What measures are the Shropshire Council putting in place to mitigate the impact to both pupils and parents impacted by this change?

Mike Streetly

How does the council propose to separate the Full Business Cases (FBC) for the North West Relief Road (NWRR) and the Oxon Link Road (OLR) and the traffic modelling that underpins them? Will the FBC for the NWRR assume that the OLR is already built and vice versa? If not, will the council be carrying out traffic modelling of each scheme in isolation?

Jamie Russell

How much of the £37.1m of retained CIL at 31/3/24 noted on page 6 of the Annual Infrastructure Funding Statement is Shropshire Council planning to use on the Shrewsbury North West Relief Road

Huw Edwards

I submit this question on behalf of a resident as an elected parish council official despite the fact that an officer of Shropshire Council states that " whilst the interventions of local members and Town Councillors may be well intentioned, they are I'd suggest unhelpful and indeed counterproductive." This attitude is unprofessional at best. Speaking truth to power may be uncomfortable but it is absolutely necessary. Shropshire Council have statutory rights to enforce Section 143 notices under the Highways Act 1980. As this allows Shropshire Council to be the prosecution, judge and jury please explain the steps followed to ensure that these are only ever properly and legally applied especially as there is no right of appeal. Without strict adherence to formal process and legal standards these notices are a breach of human rights, democracy and natural justice. If such a notice was issued to a resident who is deemed to obstruct a highway citing evidences which cannot define a boundary, please explain how this can be justified under the terms of your own policy on Better Regulation and Enforcement, particularly in terms of accountability, transparency, proportionality and consistency. The resident has provided copies of the correct legal documents and qualified professional opinion which confirm the resident's boundary is correct yet Shropshire Council refuse to accept their validity and require further legal advice

on a fundamental aspect of property law which should have been reviewed prior to serving the S143 notice. What will Shropshire Council do to resolve this issue?

Emma Bullard

The recently published Carbon Assessment reports for the North West Relief Road (NWRR) show that the amount of CO2 to be mitigated as a result of the scheme has at least doubled since it was put to the Northern Planning Committee. Meanwhile the applicant still has no quantified or costed proposals for how this mitigation should be done. They note that it will be "challenging" and might cost double the £1.2M initially planned.

These reports also show that the draft Local Transport Plan 4 is likely to conclude that "a business-as-usual transport future in Shropshire" will not yield the required emission reductions. Given that Shropshire Council is committed to "owning" these emissions, and that they look likely to make the challenge of a net zero transport system in Shropshire much harder to meet, will the council now stop all ongoing expenditure on the NWRR and properly consider alternatives to the scheme.

Julia Jones

Hunting with dogs was banned in England and Wales nearly 20 years ago. Despite this, it is still commonplace across Shropshire and the country as a whole under the guise of 'trail' hunting. Trail hunting is now widely recognised as a cover for illegal hunting, with organisations such as Natural Resources Wales, the National Trust and Malvern Hills Trust banning it in recent years. It has been banned in Scotland and the UK Government has recognised in its manifesto the need to end it in England and Wales too. Senior police officers, such as Temporary Acting Deputy Chief Constable Matt Longman, the National Police Chiefs Council lead on fox hunting crime have also recognised the widespread misuse of trail hunting. Longman has described illegal hunting as "prolific", and trail hunting a "smokescreen". Senior police officers have also extensively discussed the weaknesses of the current law and the difficulties that presents to proper enforcement of the law. While we wait for action from the Government to strengthen the legislation, landowners, especially public landowners, hold a responsibility to ensure that their land is not being misused for illegal fox, stag and hare hunting. What is Shropshire Council doing to prevent the use of its land for illegal hunting, including trail hunting which is illegal hunting by deception