

CABINET – 15 APRIL 2026

RESPONSE TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. Alan Holford

Shropshire has 3,300 miles of roads. Increased vehicle performance, higher traffic volumes and additional housing on rural routes have left some roads subject to the national speed limit where a lower limit is widely regarded more appropriate. Two clear examples in my ward are the conjoined hamlets of Barkers Green and Aston, and the hamlet of Newtown.

Barkers Green and Aston – I've received seven requests from residents for a 30mph speed limit. There was a fatal accident involving a child pedestrian in 1983, and since then there have been several minor accidents and near misses involving pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. This route is used by walkers, runners and cyclists, and reducing speeds would improve safety while aligning with local and national active travel objectives.

Newtown – This village includes a primary school and a dense concentration of housing along the main road. A 20mph limit is most appropriate here. Children are exposed to significant risks, both danger of collision and air pollution from accelerating vehicles, particularly as it is located close to a junction.

I'd therefore like to ask whether Cabinet will commit to investigating reductions of legacy national speed limits where there is clear demand from residents. How long is the process of investigation, planning and implementation? Finally, can the highways department take account of local knowledge and community concern alongside speed data, which may rely on limited surveys and fail to capture occasional but dangerous fast driving experienced by residents?

Response:

The council has recently submitted its draft proposal the next four years of Transport funding to the Department for Transport. The submission includes commitment to review rural speed limits in Shropshire. The proposal will begin in earnest in 2026 but given the size and scale of the project, it is anticipated this will extend into 2027. The results of which will be committed to a future delivery programme. I will ensure that the two locations proposed by the Member for Wem is given the due consideration as part of that discussion. In the meantime, I will ask the Service Director for Infrastructure for any information on existing or current planned traffic operations in Newton and Barkers Green and Aston. The Traffic Team will conduct the necessary studies and capture any local knowledge offered such as the comments made by the Member for Wem. When those studies are complete, I will let the Member for Wem know and outline our future plans.

2. Harry Hancock-Davies

For years, residents in Battlefield have repeatedly raised concerns about the complete lack of a safe pedestrian crossing near Shillingston Drive, particularly for families and residents crossing between the Berwick Grange and Archery Fields estates and the bus stops near the Red Lion pub on Battlefield Road.

This is not a luxury request. It is a basic public safety issue. Children are having to cross a busy road to catch the school bus, while elderly residents, parents with pushchairs, and other bus users are left to take their chances because the Council has failed, year after year, to provide even the most basic crossing infrastructure in an area where it is plainly needed.

If the Council can always find money for consultants, strategies, and pet projects, why can it never seem to deliver straightforward, common-sense safety measures for ordinary people?

Will the Portfolio Holder now commit to a highways safety assessment at Shillingston Drive, including traffic speeds, vehicle flows, pedestrian demand, and school travel movements, and more importantly, confirm when the Council will finally stop delaying and deliver a proper pedestrian crossing at this location?

Response:

The new administration recognises that core services have not been prioritised and resourced appropriately in the past, and that is something we are focused on addressing. Road Safety is just one area, particularly the safety of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and children; it is of paramount importance to this administration, so I will ensure that this matter is given the attention it deserves.

I will request that the Service Director for Infrastructure undertakes the necessary studies required for the assessment of a new controlled crossing on Battlefield Road near its junction with Shillingston Drive. In particular I will ask that that traffic speeds, often well above the 30mph limit, are taken into account and the dangers for school students crossing the road to catch buses opposite the Red Lion pub. I will report back to the Member for Battlefield the outcome of these studies and our future plans.