

Email response received from Steve Brown on 19.3.21 following the Town Council's requests for a response to emails sent in November concerning traffic issues in Wem Town

Further to the emails regarding Wem Highways and the five points listed below. I do recognise that we need to support the town council and local member in exploring these options and to see if we can progress these or not. I also know some of the issues are long standing.

- The implementation of an experimental one way system in High Street and New Street to include an access route to the main car park from Mill Street via Drawwell Lane.
- To allow access to the car park to / from Aston Street, the one way should start to the west of the entrance to the car park. This will reduce the impact on the west of High Street, Lowe Hill Road and Pyms Road. Following concerns from businesses, the one way along High Street should also allow adequate provision for deliveries / collections.
- To meet the concerns of residents along Pyms Road about additional traffic caused by a one way system, the introduction of a temporary 20mph zone around the entrance to Thomas Adams school and installation of a pedestrian crossing between the junction with New Street and the school entrance should also be considered.
- The introduction of an Environmental Weight Restriction on Mill Street to minimise HGV movement through Wem and additional protection measures to the Church at it East End
- The installation of an interactive traffic signal scheme for Maunds Corner along High Street to manage traffic flows and reduce the impact of large vehicles on pedestrians and buildings through this location.

So, I would purpose that Shropshire Council will identify an officer to lead on this for the Town / Town Council and Shropshire Council Member immediately after the election period has ended. That would allow us time to plan and prepare and assign sufficiency of resources to this project, in respect of planning and consultation. I would expect that the town council and Member is fully supportive and engages with us as a joint partner and all are active participants in moving this forward.

Currently we have recently recruited new staff to support traffic engineering and these staff are developing their approach and experience, we also have numerous social distancing projects to oversee and new requirements from central government to do with powers for trading etc that have utilised time , as well as commitments to ongoing capital and revenue projects to deliver. So it would be better to be clear that we can take this work forward, assign a resource to do this work and support , but this won't be until after the elections and when the road map for Covid hopefully eases...

If this is acceptable (but I appreciate not exactly the response required) we can start our discussions and arrangements on these issues ... I do fully appreciate that this issue has been requested for some time , and if you can also accept that staff have excessive workloads and pressures being added by Covid and government initiatives on reopening high streets, and other travel initiatives ... then we can have a planned and focussed approach that we can deliver properly

If you let me know your thoughts , we can discuss from next week onwards. So apologies for the delay, but it's better to be open about these issues ...

29.4.21

Agenda item 14a Town Highways Matters

Regards,
Steve Brown.
Head of Transport and the Environment
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury.
SY2 6ND
Tel: 01743 257809
Email: Steven.Brown@shropshire.gov.uk
Web: www.shropshire.gov.uk