

Notes from meeting held with Steve Brown, Steve Charmley and Dave Gradwell to progress Highways issues in Wem held on Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 17.00

Present

Cllr Everett, Cllr Drummond, Cllr Broomhall, Cllr Towers, Cllr Soul, Steve Brown, David Gradwell, Steve Charmley Shropshire Council Cabinet member for highways, Town Clerk

Steve Brown outlined the reason for the meeting and that the purpose of the discussion was to look at developing some experimental works within the town to alleviate longstanding traffic issues.

Steve recapped on the background to the traffic concerns in Wem and a discussion took place on how to progress the items outlined in his March proposal which was *that Shropshire Council would identify an officer to lead on this for the Town / Town Council and Shropshire Council Member immediately after the election period has ended.*

Steve alerted councillors to the fact that the proposals could be controversial and any proposals need to be worked up in partnership with the Town Council front and central to the process.

The point was made that this was not just about highways it was about the impact of traffic on the town's infrastructure and that the proposals would help to protect the buildings and to improve the town as a whole.

The importance of including the businesses in the process was recognised and it was agreed that Wem Economic Forum should be part of any consultation due to its links with the businesses located in Wem Rural Parish.

It was noted that this work is required to support and enhance Wem particularly for its economic and quality of life improvements, rather than just a highways scheme. Examples of Shrewsbury and Oswestry were discussed, and how change was now underway but it was recognised that partnership work had taken some years and that whilst a scheme is relatively straightforward longer term change will take some time.

Funding was discussed and it was highlighted that funding may be from S106 agreements and CIL Local.

It was agreed that Steve Brown would

- Provide the name of the officer assigned to lead the project by the end of the week.
- Plan a meeting for early to mid September to meet again and update on the development of a project plan
- Provide monthly Catch up meetings to report progress on timescales
- Review all of the current documents and then update at the September meeting
- SB to brief Corrie Davies as Place Plan Officer

Town Council would

- to organise monthly meetings of all concerned from mid-September for at least 6 months

Meeting ended 17.44