

Public questions to Council: 16 December 2016

Question from Mrs C Protherough, Birch Hill

Question 1

Hereford bypass

As, in the council's submission for funding for the Hereford transport package, it is generously proposed that the "bypass will make the A49 an alternative for M4/M5 traffic to ease congestion on the motorway network", could the council provide statistics for the likely resulting increase in through traffic, both car and HGV, on the A49 between north of Leominster and Ross, and could they confirm that these figures will be widely available in public consultation on the bypass in the future?

Question from Mr P McKay, Leominster

Question 2

Green highway infrastructure and planning obligations.

Following my September question I am getting positive feedback from two parishes regarding play areas and parks, they now being aware of and conditions regarding planning obligation funds available for that purpose, but the November Local Access Forum minutes report that our paths are in poor condition with lack of funding leading to idle volunteers. This seems to boil down to our green highway infrastructure not having been specifically mentioned in the local transport plan delivery strategy nor monitored in the annual progress reports, even though the local transport plan recognises our green highway infrastructure as being the single most important means of accessing the countryside, providing for quiet recreation and improving health, leisure, tourism, with the management subject of ever increasing partnership working whether that is with health providers to encourage greater walking and recognition of health benefits, with tourism partners to encourage access or with local councils and volunteers to ensure as far as possible that routes are available and free from obstruction.

So may I ask if reference to this green highway infrastructure could be mentioned when transport planning obligations are sought, so that parishes and volunteers may also be aware of and conditions regarding available transport planning obligation funds, with our green highway infrastructure included in the annual transport plan progress reports?

Question from Ms K Sharp, Hereford

Question 3

Southern link road

I have seen correspondence from the Department for Transport, including letters from Andrew Jones Minister for Roads, stating that the Southern Link Road is a 'retained scheme' and that the Local Growth funding of £27m allocated for the Southern Link Road will only be released when DfT approve the Final Business case. As the Final Business Case for the SLR is yet to be approved, do you not agree that it is very misleading for Council to repeatedly tell residents that "the funding is secured"?

Question from Mr J Perkins, Hereford

Question 4

Air pollution

On 29th April, the Supreme Court ordered the British government to boost its fight against air pollution, which could lead to drivers of diesel cars facing higher road taxes and daily charges to enter city centres or even being banned from them.

Many areas are discussing banning such vehicles from their city centres including London.

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In Britain, about 29,000 premature deaths a year are thought to be caused by air pollution. When will Herefordshire Council make an announcement banning these sources of illegal pollution?