

**COUNCILLOR QUESTIONS TO CABINET – 23 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**Question 1**

**From: Councillor Nigel Shaw, Bringsty and Bromyard Ward**

**To: Cabinet member, infrastructure and highways**

I am informed by BBLP that there is no budget for cat's eyes; road marking or anti-skid replacement in the County of Herefordshire. Given that I have a number of fast roads in my ward, where the Council insists on maintaining the national speed limit against the wishes of the local population, can the council at least undertake to maintain these items that help to protect the lives of those in my community, and take immediate action now that foggy, darker mornings are about to return? Brockhampton Group Parish Council have requested that I raise the matter of missing cat's eyes on the B4203 and A44 as a matter of particular public concern

**Response**

Thank you Cllr Shaw for your question. I can assure you that there is budget available for road marking, anti-skid and cat's eye replacement within the Annual and Forward Plan maintenance budgets.

Within the Annual Plan there is a budget of £100k for lining (this also covers studs) and £100k for loss of control sites. Last year we had additional £300k which was programmed and delivered to help deal with the demand.

Each year the highways asset is maintained in line with the council's Highways Maintenance Plan (HMP). A risk based approach is adopted to maintain the network based on inspections and surveys within the constraints of available funding. If there is an identified need following the safety inspection the works will be identified, categorised and delivered in line with the HMP within available budgets.

In short, we will never compromise on safety and if more money is needed to cover safety features it will be taken out of the annual plan to the detriment of any other planned standard works.

I have asked highway officers to liaise with BBLP (our road network managers and inspectors) ASAP and report back the issues highlighted by the parish council regards missing cats eyes on the B4203 and A44 and will come back to you with a written reply.

**Supplementary question**

I thank the Cabinet member for his assurance and look forward to the written reply by a highways officers. If they could detail how much this administration has spent on such replacement of cat's eyes (studs) since May 2019, excluding resurfacing installations, that would also be additionally reassuring

**Answer**

I thank Councillor Shaw for the question and I am sure we will do that. I would also like to ask Councillor Shaw a question, anything we struggle to do is not because of a lack of will but primarily is a lack of funding. I appreciate it if he could write to his MP to ask for some of the return of the revenue grant which has been lost over the last 10 years which is about approx. £60m per year which impacts us enormously.