

Agenda item no. 4 - Questions from members of the public

Question Number	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Peter McKay, Leominster	As a Parish Footpath Officer would you reconsider the proposed diversion D548 of footpath ZC22 across Morrisons carpark, both Morrisons Agent and Town Council suggesting it be diverted to the service road pavement. Concern with present proposal is that part remains obstructed being across parking spaces and through recycling centre with no information what is proposed for that part. Diverting the path off the carpark and to the service road pavement would enable service road to be crossed at a safer location away from the bend, and present unrecorded walked route that is out of sight and suffers abuse to be stopped up. Having discussed with PROW they indicate they cannot discuss matters outside of the proposed diversion, dealing with any remaining issues once diversion had been undertaken, yet that may require another diversion?	Cllr Price
<p>Response:</p> <p><i>The council are in the process of reviewing with an alternative unobstructed option being prepared. The suggested route, using the service road by the garage, is already part of the public highway network. Once the review has been completed, the proposed route will be shared with the Town Council for comment prior to the formal consultation and before any changes are implemented.</i></p>			
<p>Confirmed no supplementary question</p>			
PQ 2	Jeremy Milln, Hereford	<p>Having in mind the lack of provision for those who cannot afford motor transport and would therefore walk or cycle I asked a public question of General Scrutiny on 18th July 2018 concerning the failure of the designs for the Southern Link Road to comply with section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 due to its disproportionately adverse impact on the less advantaged. I was assured the issue would be addressed.</p> <p>It wasn't but I see a design review is to be included in the County Delivery Plan 2024-28. Can I have the cabinet member's assurance that if the scheme is to go ahead it will be compliant for LTN1/20 segregated active travel infrastructure so that it meets the requirements of the Equality Act for what, in truth, would be more an distributor road for housing development than a 'bypass'?</p>	Cllr Price
<p>Response:</p>			

A design review of the current proposals for the Southern Link Road will be carried out as part of the next stage of developing the scheme. The link road forms the first phase of the council's commitment to delivering the Hereford Western Bypass to support the growth and prosperity of the city.

One of the benefits of the bypass is a significant reduction in levels of traffic in the city, which will create the conditions for improving facilities for pedestrians, cyclist and public transport users. The council is currently developing a Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan which will assist in determining where the most effective interventions might be considered.

The scheme review will include an update of the Equality Impact Assessment to ensure that impacts on people with protected characteristics are mitigated. Where new facilities are considered, the requirements of LTN1/20 will be incorporated wherever possible and where site constraints allow.

Supplementary question:

The Cabinet Member's response fails to answer the question which was specifically about equality of access to the Southern Link Road, not about mitigating the effects of City traffic which would worsen anyway due to induced demand which was acknowledged in Cabinet on 28th March.

It is a perfectly simple question and tiresome to have to use my supplementary to repeat it.

The SLR being designed for motorists alone was rated 'severe adverse' for equality as Herefordshire Council would be failing under S149 of the Equality Act 2010 requiring a Public Body to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity. Therefore if the SLR goes ahead will the Cabinet Member seek to ensure it gets LTN1/20 compliant segregated active travel infrastructure so that the less advantaged members of our society who may otherwise need to walk or cycle, are not excluded? Yes or no?

Supplementary response:

Thank you Mr Milln for your question, did seek to answer the question as your originally put it and I refer to my original response, the next stage of the development of the Southern Link Road will include a design review and an update of the Equality Impact Assessment. It would be inappropriate for me to pre-empt the outcome of that review.