

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

Question No.	Questioner	Question	Question to
PQ 1	Peter McKay, Leominster	Will all our unsurfaced roads have had their annual inspections completed in conformance with the April 2024 Highway Maintenance Plan and had any obstructions logged on the Road Defect Progress Webpage Map, by May of this year?	Cllr Durkin
<p>Response:</p> <p>The Council's partner contractors, Balfour Beatty, are responsible for the annual inspection of unsurfaced routes as set out in the Highway Maintenance Plan.</p> <p>All annual inspections across the network started in February and are continuing this month. Any obstructions will be raised and dealt with accordingly.</p>			
<p>Supplementary question:</p>			
<p>Supplementary response:</p>			
PQ 2.	Chris Marsden, Kington	<p>When so many unsealed council maintained PUBLIC HIGHWAYS are neglected or obstructed, why is the Council's response to impose Traffic Regulation Orders?</p> <p>These were proposed on for example: Quebb Road CP32 Westhope, BKR14 Peartree Green,</p>	Cllr Price

		<p>Macadams Lane Spoon Lane and others.</p> <p>All of which have surface defects through NEGLECT and WILFUL OBSTRUCTION.</p> <p>The main reason given is safety, but no accidents have been recorded. Without use they also get severely overgrown example Dead Woman's Lane Lingen.</p> <p>This consultation not disclosed by Callum Bush at the LAF even though he was aware of it. Head of Highways (Ed Bradford) stated he was not aware of the proposal!</p> <p>This POWER is being put ahead of the DUTY to Assert & Protect for ALL users to save money, but will cost a vast amount.</p>	
<p>Response:</p> <p>The Council's Traffic Management Team have started a consultation process to seek views on whether access by motor vehicles should be prohibited at seven locations on the network. The Council does not intend to close or stop up these routes, which would remain accessible for walkers, cyclists, and equestrians and with the Council remaining responsible for the ongoing management of the route and ensuring it is kept open for lawful use.</p> <p>These measures are primarily proposed for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sections of highway are too narrow for motorised vehicles to use safely and are only suitable for pedestrians and horse riders. The restrictions aim to increase safety for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders using these sections of highway. <p>The measures are also proposed for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the highway or any other highway or for preventing the likelihood of any such danger arising. • For preserving or improving the amenity of the area through which the highway runs. • For preserving the character of the highway where it is especially suitable for use by persons on horseback or on foot. • To prevent accelerated damage to vegetation, surrounding biodiversity, and the highway. <p>We are currently at the very first step of the process, which involves statutory consultation with emergency services, highway authorities, and other relevant bodies.</p>			

If the proposals are deemed suitable to proceed then they will enter the formal public consultation stage. At this stage public notices will be placed in the local press and on-site at affected locations. Over a 21 day period, the public will then be asked to submit representations, all of which will be duly considered before any final decision is made. Any other interested parties, including the LAF, will have a full opportunity to raise their views during this stage of the process.

Supplementary question:

Supplementary response: