

Councillor statement, read out at Council meeting on 5th Sept 2023

Yesterday we were notified that our Chairman David Spicer and our vice chairman Alyson Lister had both decided to resign from the Parish Council. They were both part of the Safer Roads Working Group. The remaining councillors, who are not part of the Safer Roads Working Group, fully support the objective of improving Road Safety.

We acknowledge that changes to the roads will impact all different types of road user. All of these have a right to use the roads and their interests should be balanced. We further acknowledge that changes to the roads have an impact on local residents and local businesses, particularly those along the routes affected. This should also be considered in any decision making.

As Parish Councillors we consider our role to be representatives of local interest. Consequently, we found it unacceptable that the CIL project, under the stewardship of the Safer Roads Working Group, had progressed to this stage without the Parish Council having the chance to vote on the details of the proposal. Interaction with most local residents has also been 'last minute' and not in accordance with our normal policies.

The multi-page leaflet distributed to local households and the second display board at the Public Information Session were not communications approved by the Parish Council or Shropshire Council. This has led to some members of the public forming the opinion that the project had been 'kept quiet' and that it was a 'done deal'. The remaining councillors wish to apologise for this since, as members of the Parish Council, we have a shared responsibility to ensure our policies are adhered to.

The remaining Councillors have gained assurances from the Shropshire Council project manager that the decisions of the Parish Council will be taken into account when deciding which proposals for the CIL project will be implemented. The project manager also indicated yesterday that the works scheduled for October have been postponed to allow us to re-evaluate the situation.

Tonight, I do not expect you will not see heated debate on the Council on advantages and disadvantages of speed cushions and buildouts. However, we do see it as a valuable opportunity for you to express your opinions, understand councillors' views, and observe how we plan to re-evaluate the situation.