



Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG

## **QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

<b>Question From:</b>	County Councillor Ian Harrison
<b>Subject:</b>	Road safety
<b>Question To:</b>	County Councillor Jackie Charlton Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys

### **Question:**

The recent notice of a bridge closure near Machynlleth on the grounds of public safety is very welcome and is a clear demonstration of this Council's determination to prioritise public safety above other issues.

Similarly, the recent letter from Lee Waters MS (deputy Minister for Climate Change) to Councillors regarding the introduction of the new 20mph speed limit from September next year and guidance regarding exclusions also highlights the need for greater public safety on our roads for all users, including cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians, in addition to climate and pollution benefits. In particular he refers to the need for improved public safety where traffic and pedestrians intermix. He then goes on to cite significant improvements in public safety as a result. However, he also refers to the high cost of changing a speed limit, with no obvious course of action to bring that cost down.

Finally, he refers to strong public support for change, another reason for introducing the speed limit reduction.

And yet, in the face of strong public support and some Cabinet Member support for an improvement in road and pedestrian safety at the A490 staggered junction in Groes Llwyd, your Highways department continues to fail to address the issues of 'line of sight' and excessive speeds, placing pedestrians, cyclists, slow moving agricultural vehicles, and horse riders at significant risk of harm. Every day during term time young school children and older students have to cross that junction on foot to either attend Guilsfield Primary School or catch the local bus service to attend High School. This a very busy time along that stretch of highway. And exactly the same happens in reverse during late afternoon. Local residents fail to comprehend why Highways expect an additional 'donation' of £4000 to initiate the process to investigate these issues on top of the rates that they already pay.

Will the Cabinet direct the Highways Department to investigate this public safety issue as a matter of urgency, and commit resources to properly resolving the line of sight and speeding issues already highlighted.