



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

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

<b>Question From:</b>	County Councillor Iain McIntosh
<b>Subject:</b>	Unclassified road maintenance changes
<b>Question To:</b>	County Councillor Jackie Charlton Cabinet Member for a Greener Powys

### **Question:**

I am writing to you regarding the recent budget announcement by Powys County Council concerning the maintenance policy of unclassified minor roads. According to the information made available, it has been stated that "As and when Unclassified minor roads (50% of network) require maintenance works, the road is to be broken up and reverted back to stone track (unsurfaced) roads reducing future maintenance expenditure". This policy raises several questions and concerns that I hope you can address.

Firstly, could you please clarify the Council's legal responsibilities in maintaining unclassified roads? Given the significant role these roads play in our community's connectivity and safety, it's crucial to understand how the Council views its obligations in this regard.

Moreover, I am keen to understand whether this policy will be uniformly applied across all unclassified roads, including those in rural areas as well as those within housing estates in urban areas. The distinction is critical as it impacts a wide range of residents with varying degrees of accessibility and connectivity needs.

Additionally, I am concerned about the lack of publicly available impact assessments regarding this policy. Specifically, I would like to request information on any assessments conducted to evaluate the potential decrease in property values within the affected areas. Such a policy could have far-reaching implications on homeowners and the local housing market.

Equally, the impact on vehicle wear and tear, travelling times, drainage issues, winter maintenance challenges, road safety and potential increases in dust and air pollution during hot and dry weather conditions are all areas of concern that warrant thorough investigation. Have these impacts been adequately assessed, and if so, could you provide the findings of these assessments please?

Furthermore, considering Welsh Government allocates funding for road maintenance, has there been any indication of how this policy might affect future funding levels? The reduction in maintenance work could arguably justify a decrease in allocated funds, which may have broader implications for the Council's budget and priorities.

Lastly, Liberal Democrat and Labour members have historically expressed a commitment to maintaining our road network, particularly in the run up to the 2022 County Council elections. In light of this policy, which seems to contradict such commitments, how does the Council justify this decision? Many residents are eager to understand the rationale behind a policy that appears to deviate from previous assurances regarding road maintenance and infrastructure investment.

I appreciate your attention to these matters and look forward to your detailed response. It is important for the residents of Powys to fully understand the implications of this policy, both in the short and long term. Your prompt reply will be greatly valued by many in our community who are seeking clarity and reassurance on these critical issues.