

Chairman, Councillors, Members of the Public

Last Friday afternoon a serious accident happened at the junction of the A367 towards Radstock and the entrance into Peasedown St John. Over the years Councillor Bevan ensured that a number of measures were put in place to improve road safety at this junction like a filter into the village and a different road surface on the approach to the junction. A couple of years ago following renewed concerns by residents the two ward councillors met with Highways officers to discuss the issue again. The advice of officers was that the safety of the junction was adequate. The basis of that advice was a survey that measured vehicle movement, traffic flow and speed in the area; as well as accidents statistics by the police, visibility and the general condition of the road. I fully accept that the advice of officers, the professionals who we depend on to make informed decisions, was followed and no further action was taken.

Calls for a round-about at this junction continued as you probably know and there might have been a good dose of politics in it.

However, politics aside, we all agree that the safety of our residents is of the utmost importance and when a major accident occurs we have to reconsider if necessary. People often ask whether there has to be "blood on the road" before something is done; and unfortunately there is a reason why this is often the case. When we spend public money we need to base our decisions on evidence, and accident statistics are evidence.

Therefore based on this new piece of evidence could I ask that officers and councillors look at the situation again, that officers prepare a report that looks at different options to make the junctions safer, specifically for those motorists who are trying to exit the village and go onto the A 367. Based on what I hear from residents this report should include the cost of either traffic lights or a round-about or just a simple reduction in speed and the pros and cons of any of these different options. This report would then form the basis of any future decision.

Thank you!

Wera Hobhouse