

STATEMENT to Cabinet

Lesley Mansell (Chair, Radstock Town Council)

Thank you to Cllr Crossley for just announcing that Cabinet will look to include something in the next budget. It is great news.

I have been helping Jonathan Rich collect signatures on the petition calling for improved safety measures at the junction of the Bath Road and the A367 at Peasedown St John. We collected almost twice the number as the previous petition. The strength of feeling has been very clearly shown as many local people have expressed their grave concerns and all want to avoid a serious tragedy.

I maintain it is not just an issue for people in Peasedown St John it is also important for everyone who uses the A367, some on a daily basis, to get to and from Bath and all points between.

I attended the B&NES Resources Scrutiny panel on Monday night and it was most pleasing to hear the panel make a recommendation to ask that road safety measures be looked at. I would like to thank Cllr Gerrish for this proposal.

Since the panel meeting I have been informed that £10K will be incorporated into the current Capital Programme to fund feasibility, design and produce costings for further consideration. Officers will also maximise funding in the Section 106 deposit. This is also very good news indeed and a huge step forward.

But I am asking all councillors to support the allocation of funding and, most important to ensure this is a high priority.

The speed limit was reduced but this did not stop the serious accident on 9th January. It also does not help cars and buses who try to turn out of the village onto the main road and the many minor bumps that happen.

The costs I've found relate to 2011.

Highways Agency suggests that the cost for each person seriously injured in a road accident is £189,000.00 (2011 figures). "Serious" is defined as where casualties need an overnight hospital stay.

Now my researches show that roundabouts cost anything from £10,000 – 210,000 to construct. Please note these are not exact costs but give an indication.

If one accident classified as serious costs around £190,000 per person, then surely one roundabout at around £210,000 would represent significant savings to the emergency services, especially the hard pressed NHS and to individual drivers, pedestrians and their families and friends. Not to mention the immeasurable and traumatic cost when a tragedy happens.

The fact remains the cost of accidents far outweigh the amount required to install safety measures at this junction.

At the end of the day we pay the price to clear up accidents through local and national taxes as we will also have to pay for the safety improvements. I know which I would rather have and almost 1400 residents are agreed that something needs to be done, whatever that is, and sooner rather than later.

I urge all Cllrs to give this full consideration, ensure that relevant funding is allocated, that appropriate safety measures are installed and that this is given a high priority.

Thank you.