

Statement: A367 Junction Peasedown St John

B&NES Full Council meeting 23rd March 2016

Chair – Councillors

Last week the Midsomer Norton and Radstock Journal printed an item taken from a press release regarding the long awaited feasibility study about the A367 Junction with the Bath Road at Peasedown St John.

The issues here are that no decision appears to have been made - yet the report claims to say no further action will be taken.

Consultation has not been carried out against the promises made and in contravention of the B&NES Parish Charter and finally that this has done absolutely nothing to improve the relationship between Bath -- and North East Somerset.

Firstly, the Journal stated that the feasibility report was published by B&NES, but in fairness, after speaking to Cllr Clarke, Cabinet member for Highways, this is not the case. It seems the report was “leaked” as he had not seen it as he was on holiday.

Nevertheless, residents are most dismayed to see that statements were recorded in the Journal that no action is to be taken to improve the safety of the junction due to cost and lack of serious accidents. I sincerely hope this is not the case as this would fly in the face of local opinion.

Regarding costs S106 money was set aside from the Wellow Lane development for highways improvements and it is well over a year ago now since Cllr Johnathan Rich and I raised the issue of the junction and presented a petition signed by over 1400 residents which called for safety measures to be taken. This was supported by Cllr Gerrish and this council then agreed the feasibility study. Cllr Rich and myself called for interim measures to be implemented – none have - and that the report should offer a range of options - rather than being restricted to two which were for either a roundabout or traffic lights. The feasibility study has cost an alleged £30,000.

Meanwhile, Orchard Way in Peasedown SJ was singled out for speed humps, at a cost of £40,000. No data has been produced for the accident rate on Orchard way, residents are very firmly against them, a petition showed a mere 6% in favour and 92% against plus Peasedown St John Parish council voted against them twice. To date neither the Parish Council nor the residents have been consulted and we wait a formal decision on this.

Residents in PSJ have consistently campaigned for improvements to be made at the A367 junction and yet in 2014 a new roundabout costing £45,000 was installed at Camerton. No figures were given for the number of accidents, serious or otherwise.

I am bewildered at the reluctance to consult. Cllr Rich and myself asked for cllrs to meet with residents but this was turned down in favour of a site meeting. Meanwhile,

the site meeting only took place in January of this year and promises were made that the parish Council would be consulted along with the residents.

It's my understanding that there will not be a consultation. I also hope this is incorrect as B&NES will fail to deliver on its promises, ignoring its own Parish Charter, which says Local Councils will be consulted on all issues which are likely to affect their area.

I ask that you think very carefully before taking the alleged advice in the feasibility report, that you consult with PSJ parish council and residents and that the decision made is taken by the full cabinet.

Thank you

Cllr Lesley Mansell
Peasedown St John Parish Council
In a personal capacity