

Cabinet speech 1/2/17

I would like to start by stating very clearly that this is not about stopping the development of Maynard Terrace. That battle has been fought & is now over. This is about making sure that the access to this site is safe. Currently it is a difficult junction, but has no reported accidents, it is essentially safe. But two independent road safety consultants have said that the proposed plans will make the junction less safe.

Clutton Parish Council has commissioned a full road safety audit from a nationally recognised firm; we will shortly be presenting you with that audit report. When you get that report please remember that all Highways departments have a statutory duty to provide safe highways. I am sure you would not want to be negligent in your responsibilities by knowingly allowing a reduction of safety?

In the 2013 planning appeal the inspector shared the concerns of the parish councils road safety experts about the proposed design but said that they could be addressed, her exact words, para 22-25 were "*Expert witnesses who gave evidence on behalf of the Parish Council expressed concern about the siting of the necessary signage and road markings, as well as the drainage of the junction, visibility, and the road surface of Clutton Hill, but accepted at the inquiry that such concerns were capable of being addressed at the detailed technical design stage. I share that view.This would enable the additional vehicular and pedestrian movements likely to be generated as a result of the proposed new housing to be satisfactorily accommodated, without any adverse impact on highway safety or the capacity of the road network.*" She clearly expected further refinement of the layout. To allow it to go ahead without those improvements will be abandoning common sense and your statutory duty to provide safe highways.

You have recently had to make some difficult, unpopular and courageous decisions- but you made these based on facts. I am asking you to soon to make another decision, but it shouldn't be difficult because it will be based on facts and your statutory duty, and I can assure you it that a decision to ensure that the new junction configuration is at least as safe as the current configuration will be a very popular decision.

Thank you for listening to me.