

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
22nd February 2018**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Liam Fitzpatrick, Portfolio Holder for Highways

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor David Selby

What progress is being made to plan for the de-trunking of the A489 through Newtown once the By Pass opens next year?

Response

The preferred route for the bypass was announced in October 2010 with final sign off by the Welsh Minister in 2015. Construction commenced in March 2016 with completion due in spring 2019.

Once the bypass is open Powys County Council will become responsible as the Highway Authority for the old 'de-trunked' sections of the A483 and A489 through Newtown as well as any newly constructed link roads.

Since the announcement of the bypass Powys County Council has been liaising with Welsh Government on various matters including:

- Standards of construction for the new road links
- Works required to the old trunk road sections (A483 / A489) to bring them to an acceptable standard
- Land Drainage matters
- Local road closures during construction
- Road Numbering, Speed limits and Signing
- Active Travel
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Prior to Powys County Council becoming responsible for the old trunk road network it was agreed with Welsh Government to survey the condition of the roads and identify any works required to bring them to a reasonable standard. The survey has included carriageway, bridges, retaining walls, drainage and street lighting. Discussions with the Welsh Government are currently on-going in terms of agreeing the scope of works and costs. It is hoped formal confirmation of arrangements will be received from Welsh Government by the end of the financial year. Discussions have also taken place with utility companies to try and ensure that any works put on hold during the construction of the bypass are completed before any major resurfacing works.

The Town Council, Chamber of Trade and Mid-Wales Manufacturing group were consulted early on in the process, however further discussions are on hold until

negotiations between Powys County Council and Welsh Government are completed. Once agreement has been reached further engagement will take place with key stakeholders. At present only funding for bringing the old trunk road up to a standard has been identified.

The Council has been successful in attracting further Active Travel funding from the Welsh Government Local Transport Fund to carry out works within Newtown. These include a new cycle/pedestrian link at Plantation Lane, Riverside works, an allotment link and footpath widening along the Llanidloes road.