

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
18th October 2018**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Highways, Recycling and Assets

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe

Earlier this year the then portfolio holder for highways lifted the moratorium on traffic orders across the county. Whilst the community of Hay understands there are severe financial implication on Powys County Council's budget due to cuts in funding and increase cost across council service hitting budget like highways harder as it's a non-statutory service. Over the next couple of years there are major developments in the community that will involve traffic orders being raised to their works. Will the portfolio holder support Hay Town Council and the local community in engaging with them prior to any orders being raised to support the town plan retaining to speed reduction within town and traffic orders to support safe transport around the town?

Response

As a point of reference, as the Highway Authority Powys County Council do indeed have a statutory duty to maintain the highway.

Developers are encouraged, and generally do, discuss proposals including traffic issues with the council prior to submitting planning applications or applications for traffic regulatory orders and in this case the views of local members and the community would be taken into account and supported where possible.

As part of the planning permission process, highways issues are formally considered and the issues effecting town and communities are fundamental to these considerations along with; in respect of traffic matters etc, the Welsh Government criteria and guidelines. During this process maximum benefit to the highway within reason would be sought and the local member would generally be party to the considerations.

Where traffic regulation orders form part of the process, officers will consult with the local member[s] and also if appropriate the Town or Community Council. In this way we aim to ensure the proposals will be generally accepted by the community prior to the public consultation being undertaken. Any objections would also give rise to further discussions with the Local Member to assist in formulating the final recommendation for my decision.

Whilst the local Member can help shape the TRO, the decision on whether a TRO can actually be made a condition of a planning approval is a matter for the Highway Authority to determine based on what is required for the development following best practice, published guidelines and legislation. This part of the process does not allow for consultation but the planning application process would allow anyone to make comments on the development as part of the planning process.