

PUBLIC SUBMISSION TO B&NES CABINET BY DAVID WORSKETT ON BEHALF OF CLUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

I am David Worskett and I am the Vice-Chair of Clutton Parish Council. My personal and professional background includes a long spell in the transport sector, including a period, some years ago now, as the Department of Transport's Director of Road Safety. I am a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Highways and Transportation.

In Clutton we have for some time been greatly concerned about the decision to change the configuration of the junction between Maynard Terrace and Clutton Hill. This change is being made to facilitate the development of 36 houses by Curo on a site known as Maynard A. However this is a connecting route of importance to the whole community and not just for the new development.

We know that the basic decision to reconfigure the junction cannot be reversed. Our concerns relate to the detailed technical planning and layout of the changed junction, which appeared to us to be seriously inadequate, notably in respect of the safety of pedestrians, including children walking to the village schools, and in respect of turning vehicles. The Parish Council therefore commissioned its own, completely independent Stage 2 Road Safety Audit. This was undertaken by a professional firm and headed by a member of the Society of Road Safety Auditors. Apart from showing the auditors the junction, the Parish Council had no input to the report or its conclusions.

Those conclusions confirmed that our concerns are justified. As currently proposed, the new junction would be less safe than present arrangements and we are sure that cannot be acceptable to anyone. Were the current design to be allowed to go ahead unchanged and there were then to be a serious accident, the position of the local highway authority would be very exposed given the professional reservations that have now been properly documented.

With the help of Cllr Clarke and Cllr Warrington, we have discussed the report with officers, who have undertaken to look carefully at the findings and how to reduce the risks. It should be possible to make the new junction safer if the right design changes are implemented. We have so far had no further feedback from officers.

That is what the Parish Council believed must now be done and we therefore seek the Cabinet's support in:

- (a) insisting that this now happens, consistent with the priority being given to road safety and in particular the safety of pedestrians and children

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(b) ensuring that the financial interests of the developer are not allowed to over-ride the need to achieve acceptable safety standards and

A copy of the independent RSA 2 for the record has already been provided to the Committee Secretary along with a copy of this submission.

12 April 2017