

Bodelwyddan Town Council
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FAO: Ms Jenny Prendergast

Gofynnwch am / Please ask for:

Mike Jones

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Ein Cyf / Our Ref: **H/TT/T1023**

Eich Cyf / Your Ref

Dyddiad / Date:

3rd January 2014

Dear Jenny,

Re: Safe Routes in Communities, Bodelwyddan

Thank you for your email dated 11/11/13 and I apologise for the delay in replying.

I enclose a number of drawings for your attention. The first drawing (reference no. T1023/D/05A) is the plan that was developed by the Community Travel Committee during the summer of 2011. It was displayed at the public consultation event held on Saturday 10th September 2011.

The second drawing (reference no. T1023/D/09A) was included in the bid documents sent to the Welsh Government during week commencing 10th October 2011.

The only significant difference between the two drawings is that the second drawing shows two additions to the scheme which are the mini-roundabout at the junction of Abergele Road and Artillery Row, and the drop off area on the north side of Abergele Road. These two additional elements were included as a direct result of feedback from the public consultation exercise. A further addition was the proposal to investigate providing traffic calming on Abergele Road, which again arose from feedback received. This isn't shown on the second drawing but was referenced in the bid application as something to be investigated for a subsequent phase of the scheme.

You will probably recall that a questionnaire was sent to all residents of Bodelwyddan to complement the public exhibition in September 2011. By the time we had received and considered all the feedback from this consultation exercise we were fast approaching the submission date for the Safe Routes bids. Rather than delay any potential funding by a further 12 months, we took the decision to submit a Phase 1 bid to include elements of the scheme that would potentially be more straightforward to deliver. For example, we knew that the remodelling of Church View car park had unresolved land issues and so it would not have been appropriate for inclusion in Phase 1. Please note that a phased approach to delivering the overall scheme had actually been advocated from the outset of the project owing to the likely size of the scheme, and likely amount of funding to be made available

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through the Safe Routes project, based on our previous experience of bidding for this funding stream.

To summarise, the following elements of the project were included within Phase 1:

- Widening of footway/cycleway between Parc Castell and Ronaldsway (including lighting upgrade)
- Investigation, development and implementation of traffic calming and a pedestrian crossing on Ronaldsway
- Drop off area on north side of Abergele Road

The only element of Phase 1 that had not been previously agreed in principle by the Community Travel Committee at the time the bid was submitted was the drop off area. We took the decision to include this on the basis that it could be subsequently withdrawn from the bid in the event of any opposition to it. We consulted with the Town Council, former County Councillor and School in mid-October 2011. The school replied to say they were supportive of the drop off area.

At the time of the bid submission, there was agreement for a traffic calming scheme and pedestrian crossing to be developed for Ronaldsway with the detail to be developed in due course. A design was developed for this element of the scheme in November 2011. It was consulted upon with the Town Council, former County Councillor and emergency services on 04/11/11 and residents on 02/12/11. A plan of the proposed traffic calming is enclosed (drawing reference no. T1023/D/11A). This plan shows two build-outs on the westerly side of Ronaldsway which were later removed following feedback received from the consultation with residents. The build-out opposite No. 9 Maes Stanley was added at a later stage and was consulted upon with the residents directly affected (Nos. 7, 8, 9 and 10 Maes Stanley on 26/1/12). This latter build-out is the one that was constructed and subsequently removed.

The additional elements of traffic calming on Abergele Road and the mini-roundabout at the Artillery Row/Abergele Road junction were consulted upon with the Town Council and County Councillor by letter on 3/11/11. The drop off area by the school is also detailed on the drawing that was enclosed with the letter. Consultation with residents of Abergele Road was undertaken by letter on 2/12/11. This resulted in some opposition to the mini-roundabout proposed for the junction of Abergele Road with Artillery Row. A meeting was held with residents and, as a result, the design was amended to replace the mini-roundabout with build-outs on either side of the road).

I have carried out a thorough review of our files and I would suggest that the above paragraphs detail the significant changes that have been made when comparing the current scheme with the one that was first developed by the Community Travel Committee in the summer of 2011. Please let me know if you require any further detail regarding these or any other issues. Likewise, please let me know if you require copies of any of the correspondence referred to.

Denbighshire County Council shares your disappointment that the Welsh Government chose not to fund the second phase of the Bodelwyddan SRIC project. Upon learning of the news, we requested an urgent meeting with the WG officials that administer the SRIC grant. At the meeting, they explained that they had changed the scoring mechanism used to rank competing bids from across Wales. This change meant that a much greater “weighting” was being given to schemes based in deprived electoral wards. This, unfortunately, meant that the Bodelwyddan scheme fell just below the “cut off” point for schemes they were going to fund. The Welsh Government officials also suggested that they would be unwilling to provide funding for the remodelling of the car park should a bid be resubmitted.

This obviously leaves us in a position where we need to try and identify alternative sources of funding for this project and this matter has been raised with colleagues in our Economic Development team as matter for consideration.

Yours sincerely,



pp. Head of Highways and Environmental Services

Copy to: File
Cllr. Alice Jones