

**Wiltshire Council**

**Cabinet**

**2 February 2021**

**Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation and Questions from Councillors**

**Statement and Questions from Ian James – Bremhill Parish Councillor**

**To Councillor Bridget Wayman, Cabinet Member for Highways,  
Transport and Waste**

**Statement**

The Cabinet member for Highways has been in this position for a number of years now and is familiar with the arguments for better transport requirements in Chippenham.

Wiltshire Council is currently undertaking a consultation process on the proposed implementation of a road scheme for Chippenham which has been driven by subjective evidence that there is congestion in the centre of Chippenham. In fact, much of the promotion of the proposed new road hinges on how to reduce congestion in Chippenham.

The new road scheme to reduce traffic congestion in Chippenham is expected to cost in excess of £75m, which will be provided by the HIF bid money which is only a grant and the Council will have to pay that back.

If congestion has been so bad in Chippenham for a number of years why has Wiltshire Council not invested in a traffic light network which is computerised, and increases the flow of traffic automatically when the roads sense a build up in a certain direction, and also at peak times. A set of linked traffic lights from the Bridge Centre to the A350 would mean that traffic would flow smoothly and there would be little congestion.

**Question 1 (21-29)**

Why has Wiltshire Council, and the consultants Atkins, which we are all paying for not considered this solution rather than a £75m road around Chippenham which in the present times seems an excess amount of money to relieve congestion in the town centre.

**Response**

The HIF grant does not require repayment and is there to support the delivery of key infrastructure to unlock land for development and ease congestion in the town centre.

**Question 2 (21-30)**

Has the Council considered this technology, and if not why not?

**Response**

The Council has implemented various technologies to increase traffic flows at signal-controlled junctions and will continue to do so. The traffic signals at A350 Farmers Roundabout is one example of where such traffic control currently operates.