



Atworth Traffic Action Group (ATAG)

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In this instance, please reply to:

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8th October 2013

By email:

Mr John Thomson,
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Highways
Wiltshire Council
County Hall, Bythesea Road
TROWBRIDGE
BA14 8JN

Dear Mr Thomson,

Thank you for your reply of 8th August 2013 to my proposal regarding the costs of dealing with road traffic incidents in Wiltshire and Swindon. I apologise for the delay in replying, but we have been giving careful thought to the contents of your letter.

We think you may have misunderstood our intention. We were not criticising the work that Wiltshire Council are doing in regard to traffic and road safety through the Road Safety Partnership, although as a separate issue it has to be said that the withdrawal of the speed camera van from the A365 in Atworth some years ago has resulted in a significant rise in undesirable driver behaviour through our village - any resident will tell you that. But nor did we assume that all of the £116m costs described in the 13th Annual Report was within the budgetary remit of the Council. However, a proportion of those costs must be borne by Wiltshire council tax payers, and even a small percentage must be a substantial sum. Our point is that we wish the Council to consider most carefully ways in which some of that proportion of the costs could be used much more intelligently, for example by targetting at "hot spots" that local groups, such as ATAG are able to identify.

We are aware of several other local groups and suspect they would have similar interests in targetting areas of specific concern to them. This approach would allow Wiltshire Council and its Road Safety Partnership to better engage with their communities and to demonstrate even greater leadership in their approach to pro-active road safety. Perhaps this could even become a model for other councils to follow.

Therefore, we would still wish to take up the offer of as suggested by Jon Hubbard, and to speak to your Cabinet on this issue, at the meeting due on 22nd October, as we consider that our suggestions can help the ways in which these matters are dealt with by the council.

I shall look forward to your reply, and to details of the process for presenting our views to your cabinet.

Yours sincerely



Kenneth Spencer

On behalf of the ATAG Organising Committee
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