

Wiltshire Council

Council

29 September 2015

**Notice of Motion No. 26 – Community Area Transport Group (CATG) process
Councillors Chris Caswill and Jeff Osborn**

To consider the following motion:

Council notes that a process for handling responses to highways issues logged by Wiltshire residents has been centrally imposed on Area Boards and Community Area Transport Groups (CATGs). Council regrets that this process has been imposed without local consultation. Council is particularly concerned that

- (a) the process as described in the administrative flowchart is lengthy and bureaucratic, and
- (b) the process does not recognise and include the representative role of the local Wiltshire Council member, even though that role is specifically set out in the Council Constitution, and
- (c) Wiltshire Councillors who are not CATG members are limited to the largely symbolic approval of CATG representations, and
- (d) Parish and Town Councils have an effective veto on action on reside requests from residents, but are required to give first stage consideration to the residents' issues without the benefit of any professional officer advice, and
- (e) all Community Areas are being required to limit their active consideration of residents' issues to 5 at any one time, regardless of the size of the Community Area and its highway network, and
- (f) the process will be neither comprehensible nor acceptable to residents who expect their elected representatives to act on their behalf and the Council to provide timely responses to their requests

Council recognises that there are resource constraints on highways and road safety improvements as a result of the combination of Government funding cuts and Cabinet decisions. However the current lengthy and rigid process is neither effective nor consistent with representative democracy. Council therefore requests the Cabinet member for Highways to withdraw the current CATG process, to consult with backbench members, and thereafter to replace it with a more flexible system, which incorporates the representative role of the local Wiltshire Council member.