

Council

Meeting date: 16 December 2024

Motions (1 total)

Motion A

Proposed by: Councillor Frank Allen

Seconded by: Councillor Flo Clucas

Road Chaos in Swindon Village

Swindon Village, and northwest Cheltenham, is one of the biggest business hubs in West Cheltenham, and is home to a diverse community of people. Businesses and residents rely on well-managed, safe, and usable roads to live and prosper.

Northwest Cheltenham is also a gateway to Cheltenham and its growth. We need well-maintained roads that continue to make this possible. What happens to the roads in Swindon Village indelibly affects the town.

In recent months, however, road closures, congestion, and chaos has blighted the area.

May 2024 saw a significant number of local residents and businesses impacted by the road closures in Swindon Village. A series of prolonged works, most notably on Manor Road, have meant significant delays, missed appointments, and a sizeable drop in local business sales. The road congestion has not abated.

Moreover, people feel unsafe using, crossing, and living next to these roads. The narrowness of Swindon Road bridge has resulted in pedestrian paths being blocked, and the bridge being impassable. People have been struck and badly hurt on this bridge and on Swindon Road due to poor road management. Properties have been hit by vehicles failing to pass narrow roads. Action needs to be taken to improve the safety of our roads, to properly coordinate road closures, and to manage traffic.

A petition garnering 100 signatures ran from early August to 30 September, and was formally presented to Gloucestershire County Council at Shire Hall on 6 November. However, while we are partially assured by the response, further action needs to be taken over the course of the new year to resolutely fix the problem.

With well-managed, safe, and usable roads in Swindon Village, we can increase the quality of life for residents while delivering on the Council's commitment to boosting Cheltenham's prosperity and economic growth.

Council is requested to approve the following resolution:

That the Leader of CBC will write to the Cabinet Member for Highways at Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and request an end to the general road mismanagement in Swindon Village and northwest Cheltenham, with the following specific recommendations:

1. That a review into traffic regulation orders in the ward be undertaken, with a particular focus on delivering a TRO for a one-way network on Elm Street and Waterloo Street.
2. That a 20mph speed limit for streets in the ward be consulted on.
3. That Network Rail and the Major Projects team be asked to review the need to upgrade the Swindon Road bridge on the grounds of safety, with consideration for expanding the bridge and/or implementing a separated pedestrian/cycle crossing.
4. That GCC reviews the coordination of public utilities works with Borough and County councillors, local representatives and developers on a quarterly basis.
5. That GCC has recourse to their powers to implement fines and Fixed Penalty Notices in instances of non-conformity.
6. That safer pedestrian crossings on Tewkesbury Road and Swindon Road be implemented.

That the Cabinet Member for Planning and the Chair of Planning Committee calls on the Highways Authority to give proper consideration to conditions that could help to minimise traffic disruption for future planning applications and works to enforce these.