

Councillor Dr Mark McClelland Cabinet Office Wiltshire Council Bythesea Road Trowbridge Wiltshire BA14 8JN

8th August 2022

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter of July 29th. I very much welcome your willingness to ask officers to develop proposals.

In response to your request for reassurance that there is a consensus of support, the approach we have discussed with you, and which was outlined in my letter of May 9th was based on a motion backed unanimously in a vote of the Full Council. You then sought clarification, and my response to you (June 17th) was shared with all councillors as a draft and no objections were received. As covered in earlier correspondence, we believe the proposed way forward is also well aligned with the balance of opinion in the town, as expressed in our consultation.

We would very much like to give an update and information about next steps at our Full Council meeting on September 6th. This is the best way of maintaining the consensus across the council and within the town. As you say, residents' expectations on this issue are high, and a clear indication of progress at this meeting will give vital reassurance to the community that progress is being made.

In terms of financing, the Town Council spent £20,000 on the first round of consultation and anticipates spending a further £10,000 on the next round of consultation. So, the total spend for phases 1 and 2 for both our councils would be: BoA Town Council £30,000, Wiltshire Council £50,000. This does seem like a fair balance considering the responsibilities (and budgets) of each council. We believe therefore that it would be reasonable for Wiltshire as the Highways Authority to fund modelling work designed to prepare new proposals.

However, with regards to traffic modelling, we have been contacted by a local traffic engineer who has independently built a VISSIM traffic model for the town. He has offered to validate and run the modelling without charging for the build phase of the work which would offer substantial savings compared to a third party who would be starting from scratch. Please let us know if this is an offer that you would like to explore further; we can then supply you with the contact details.

I very much hope that this provides a basis from which we can indicate to residents what the next stages will be and look forward to hearing from you. I am away from August 11-21st so I would be grateful if you would copy your reply to the Town Clerk and Cllrs Tim Trimble and Sarah Gibson.

Yours sincerely

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Cllr Katie Vigar Chairman & Mayor