

Traffic group report for February 2018

At the January 2018 Parish Council meeting Councillor Henry produced a new (cheaper) plan to reduce traffic in the London Road and High Street.

The plan proposed a build-out just west of the grain silos on the B3086, with a 'No Entry' prohibition to westbound traffic. Advanced signage to the east of the Rollestone crossroads would advise drivers that it was not possible to access Shrewton via the B3086. The traffic group did not have prior notice of this proposal and met on 11 January at Councillor and Mrs Hassett's house to discuss it.

The traffic group felt that whilst the plan had some merits (the stopping of westbound vehicular traffic on the B3086 and a possible reduction in vehicular traffic movements on London Road and the High Street) considerable challenges were present:-

The absence of an escape route for any westbound vehicular traffic that missed the advance warning signs.

There would be a considerable increase in HGV movements northward along Shrewton High Street (and eastward in London Road) with the potential of traffic conflict with PSVs, utility delivery vehicles, to some extent cars and, where there is an absence of footpaths, pedestrians.

General vehicular access to Middle Farm, Shrewton Lodge Stud (including their horses and carriages), London Road, High Street, Tanners Lane, Elston Lane and Orcheston would be denied to vehicular traffic coming from Rollestone Crossroads. This would be a significant inconvenience for London Road residents (including Middle Farm and Shrewton Stud Lodge) using a vehicular access route from the east. Access from the east to Dan's Barn and Middle Farm would also be denied to large agricultural traffic (including combine harvesters and Horsch trikes or other similarly sized vehicles), they would have to travel via the A360 and then use the High Street and London Road.

Access to the future cricket club location off the south end of Nett Road would be denied to vehicular traffic coming from Rollestone Crossroads; it was a condition of the Planning Application approval that vehicular traffic for the cricket club would enter and exit via Shrewton 32, Nett Road Byway at The Clump; this traffic would have to travel via the High street and London Road. This would probably not happen, this traffic would tend to use the southern end of Nett Road (which is what the planning condition sought to avoid).

There is a potential for an increase in speeding of vehicular traffic eastward on London Road as it would be believed it was a one way road system (a similar situation exists on the Stonehenge Road in Amesbury, where drivers overtake with no regard for traffic heading towards Amesbury).

Whilst it is clear there are potentially some benefits in reducing vehicular non-local traffic flows through Shrewton on the B3086 in a westerly direction the disadvantages for both local residents and businesses outweigh the advantages of this scheme. The whole scenario should be considered in the context that Shrewton is a large village surrounded by large working farms which would be severely adversely affected by this plan. A similar scheme to the above was suggested in 2015, this was examined by Shrewton Parish Council and concluded to be impractical.

This latest plan became known outside the Council and caused some upset. Councillor Henry was advised of this, his response was a revised plan prohibiting westbound traffic 'Except for Access'.

The traffic group would like to point out that this would be totally unworkable; for instance, who would police it?

It is not possible to have a single-ended 'Except for Access' scenario except in a cul-de-sac, the law defines 'Except for Access' as a prohibition except for access to premises or land adjacent to the road where there is no other route. If such a prohibition on westward traffic movements were to take place it would be of similar effect as the 'No Entry' scenario as traffic could still access the area 'from the other direction' thus rendering westbound traffic movements past the prohibition illegal.

For the 'Except for Access' proposal to be workable and enforceable similar prohibition signage would have to be placed at the A360 junctions of Nett Road, the High Street, Tanners Lane and also at the A360 junctions of the roads from Orcheston. Whilst this would solve a lot of Shrewton's traffic problems (as only local traffic would be permitted in the northern part of the village) it is highly unlikely Wiltshire Council would permit this to take place.

It was therefore felt that until further details of the 'Except for Access' scheme were provided that there would be no benefit gained by putting this proposal to the Parish Council for consideration.

This concludes the traffic report.