

Community Highways Requests

Paper for consideration at Croscombe Parish Council meeting Tuesday 24th October 2023

In connection with Croscombe resident David Collyer's Highway Request with respect to Old Street and Jack's Lane presented to this meeting I submit generic considerations with respect to community highways requests.

Somerset Council Highways will consider a community highways change request once it is clear that the local parish council supports it. This is as demonstration that the request has wide community support and is not just the requirement of one or two residents.

In its turn, the parish council needs to be able to demonstrate that it is satisfied that the request has support in the community. It is my understanding that Croscombe Parish Council does not yet have a policy document for this. With this I attach as template a document recently approved by Shepton Mallet Town Council. Shepton Mallet Town Council has agreed to my sharing it, a public document, this evening. The policy document makes clear that the request has to be accompanied by a completed survey of a minimum number of residents affected by the request. The more widespread this survey can be the better.

Once the Parish Council is satisfied that the request has the backing of the community and that there is demonstration of a community consensus, the Parish Council can submit the request to Somerset Council Highways.

Once Highways approves the change, they can scope the work involved and quote for it. The harsh reality is that Council Highways no longer has its own budget for such work. They will carry it out, but somebody else has to pay for it.

Funding can come from the Parish Council if they agree to precept for it or take from reserves. Another option is that members of the community raise the funds themselves. Once Highways has approved the change there should be no obstacle to the works taking place so long as the community is prepared to pay for them.

A recent example (not this division) happened thanks to the local parish council agreeing to pay half, the other half being fundraised in the community.

I hope that this helps.

Martin Lovell

Elected Member

Somerset Council

Shepton Mallet Division

martin.lovell@somerset.gov.uk

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