

Forden Road development Montgomery 20/2118/FUL additional response from Montgomery Town Council

Montgomery Town Council wishes to comment on the Access Assessment provided by Sumner Consultancy for the developers and recently added to the Planning Portal with respect to 20/2118/FUL.

The Town Council remains broadly supportive of the proposal for affordable housing but has serious concerns regarding the proposed access road onto the already dangerous Forden Road and the need for significant safety improvements given the subsequently increased volume of traffic and pedestrian use.

We note concerns already expressed by Highways and that the report in no way addresses these concerns or those already expressed by the Town Council or residents and would draw attention to the following issues:

The survey provided is from 2019 and given the increased use of private transport and of delivery vehicles is significantly out of date. We also consider that the photographs provided do not accurately represent the poor visibility of the proposed access.

The survey recognises regular exceeding of the current speed limits and local knowledge indicates many incidences of highly inappropriate speeds for either entering a residential area or approaching a blind summit

At both consultation phases, MTC requested a footpath to link the new development with the pavement from Trefaldwyn Veterinary Surgery to town. The consultants suggest there could be an opportunity for a 1m wide foot-way at the discretion of the Highway Authority. MTC maintain that such a footpath is essential and that it must be of the minimum 1.5m width to safely accommodate a wheelchair, two people needing to walk side by side or a pedestrian with a pram / pushchair. MTC would ask that this is particularly noted given the incident just a few weeks ago when a resident with a pushchair carrying her grandchildren was clipped by a car, she suffered injuries and the two children tipped into the ditch.

Removal of the Montgomery sign as proposed in order to improve visibility would not be welcomed in town. The signs are unique to Montgomery and have recently been completely refurbished by public donation. Montgomery is the historic former county town and tourism is an important contributor to our local economy and the special signs are a symbol of that unique identity.

MTC do not consider a plethora of different speed signs, countdown markers and Give Way signs to be either effective or desirable. They are largely ignored (as can be seen along the entering Montgomery from Newtown direction) and are unsightly in a historic and rural setting. MTC would propose:

- a 30mph sign on the approach to the blind summit before the hidden Sarkley Lane and New Road junctions with a flashing actual speed monitor. 40Mph is too fast for the approach to this dangerous point, particularly to motorists trying to exit New Road;
- provision of a mini roundabout at the Sarkley Lane / New Road / Forden Road junction. The proposed housing site access needs to be completely reworked so that vehicles access and egress at the apex of the site using the mini roundabout or an access near the old factory site needs to be considered where sight lines are much better;
- provision of a footpath from the new access road of the statutory minimum of 1.5m. (and preferably 2m). The possibility of providing a cycleway should also be considered in line with the Active Travel Act. The slight carriageway reduction required would be beneficial in speed reduction;
- MTC requested bus stop provision for the new development;
- insertion of a chicane for traffic calming between the Vets and The Cottage Visitor Centre. These have been shown to be effective speed reducers elsewhere. The awkward junction of Forden Road and the is often approached at dangerously high speeds and there is an opportunity to improve road and residential safety and amenity by this provision, particularly given the increased traffic from the new development. This measure could serve to discourage unsuitable use of this route by

HGVs that then proceed up the very narrow Princes Street, where the houses all front directly onto the road, or make the highly dangerous turn into Chirbury Road at the Pound.