

**QUESTION NO. 1**

Councillor Whitham to ask the Chair:

**Improving Kings Road Safety Record**

Everyone will have seen yet another serious accident on King's Road in December. We will have to wait until this accident has been investigated to learn from it, but the fact remains that King's Road has a very high number of accidents. Green councillors would like to see road safety improvements for King's Road. Will the Council investigate what can be done on this?

**REPLY by the Chair of the Traffic Management Sub-Committee.**

I invite Councillor Page, the Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport to make the response on my behalf.

**REPLY by Councillor Page, Lead Councillor for Strategic Environment, Planning and Transport:**

I thank Councillor Whitham for his question.

Our thoughts are obviously with the person who was injured in this incident, which is being investigated by Thames Valley Police. It would be inappropriate, therefore, to comment further on the details at this time.

Reading Borough Council and Thames Valley Police have a close working relationship regarding incidents on the highway involving any casualties. Where serious incidents occur, or those involving fatalities, Council officers are often involved in aspects of the Police investigation process. The Council also receives Police data, on incidents involving casualties, which is analysed and may be referred to in some reports to this Sub-Committee.

The Council will review the results of Police investigations and their supplied data to consider whether there are any patterns, or specific factors/causes, that could be addressed by reasonable engineering solutions or highway alterations.

In some cases there may be alterations that can be considered to improve road safety, such as the recent closures of South Street and The Grove with Watlington Street which reduced traffic flow to the crossroads at Sidmouth Street. In other cases, however, casualty incidents are considered to have been caused by factors that are outside of the reasonable influence of the Council.

Officers will await the conclusion of the Police investigation in this case and consider its contents. If necessary, a report will be brought to a future TMSC for consideration.

ENDS