

## Bishops Lydeard Roads and Traffic project

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===== Forwarded message =====

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Date: Wed, 24 Jun 2026 12:22:00 +0100

Subject: RE: MN004280 Bishops Lydeard Phase 2 - Key Points from Meeting 14/04/2026

===== Forwarded message =====

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your email, and I do understand the concerns you have raised regarding both the pace of progress and the overall experience to date. I also recognise the Parish Council's long-standing ambition to deliver traffic calming in Bishops Lydeard, and the commitment it has made to funding both the design and delivery of these schemes.

It is important to acknowledge that this commission represents a new way of working for the service. We do not currently have a fully defined or standardised model for supporting the delivery of highway schemes that are promoted and funded by third parties such as Town and Parish Councils. Our engagement with Bishops Lydeard Parish Council is therefore helping to establish and shape that approach. As such, it was always anticipated that this would involve a degree of learning for all parties, and there will be value in feeding this experience back into our systems and processes to improve how we operate going forward.

There can sometimes be a difference between the expectation of how quickly schemes can be progressed and the reality of delivering highway works to the required professional, technical and safety standards. The design and delivery process involves a number of necessary steps that are essential to ensure that any intervention is safe, compliant and achieves the scheme objectives. In this case, we have deliberately applied a structured and sequential approach. This is intended to manage and minimise risk for both the Council and the Parish Council, while providing clear "gateways" at which the Parish Council can make informed decisions about how to proceed. This approach ensures transparency, allows costs and scope to be understood at each stage, and avoids commitment to delivery before designs are robust and fully considered.

In relation to Site 14 specifically, I am pleased to confirm that detailed design is now largely complete, and we have recently received a positive Road Safety Audit. The scheme will now undergo a final review by the Principal Designer. We are planning to share the completed detailed design by the end of July.

In parallel, we will be engaging with our contractor to develop the construction programme and traffic management requirements. This will enable us to prepare a robust and accurate cost profile, which we expect

to provide in September. Subject to confirmation from the Parish Council that the costs are acceptable, and subject also to road space availability, it remains a realistic timeline to deliver the works before the end of this calendar year.

We remain fully committed to working collaboratively with the Parish Council to achieve the desired outcomes, and we are keen to ensure that the remainder of the programme proceeds as efficiently as possible. To support this, I would suggest that once Site 14 has been delivered, we undertake a joint "lessons learned" exercise with the Parish Council. This would allow us to capture what has worked well, identify where improvements can be made, and ensure that the Parish Council's other priority sites can be brought forward more expeditiously. It will also help inform how we structure similar arrangements with other communities in future.

I hope this provides reassurance, and I would be happy to discuss further if helpful. We look forward to continuing to work with you and the Parish Council in a positive and constructive way.

Kind regards,

**Andy Coupé MSc**

Head of Infrastructure Programmes

**Somerset Council**

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**From:** Cllr Mike Rigby <[mike.rigby@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:mike.rigby@somerset.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 22 June 2026 20:40

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**Subject:** Re: MN004280 Bishops Lydeard Phase 2 - Key Points from Meeting 14/04/2026

Dear Mike

I am becoming increasingly concerned about this project. We've been trying for almost ten years to get some traffic calming in the village. We have long understood that Somerset Council and its predecessor highway authority have not had the funds for this. But the parish council does and we have offered to pay for the work. And the design. And Somerset Council's time. And yet the process is absolutely painful. Meeting after meeting without conclusion. I want to set a clear target now. I expect the current project - Site 14 - to be completed

before the end of the year. Please can you ensure that whatever Somerset Council needs to do in order to achieve the desired outcome is done.

As an aside, I understand that this is the first time that a parish council has been Somerset Council's client in this way. It does not work.

Regards, Mike.

**Mike Rigby**

Councillor, Lydeard Division

Executive Lead - Economic Development, Planning & Assets

**Somerset Council**, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY



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