



SHAW & CROMPTON TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, 1 Kershaw Street East, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8AB
Tel. 01706 847590 | Mob 07436 229083 | Email clerk.shawcrompc@btconnect.com

Date : 27 January 2025

Dear Councillor Shah

Re : Big Lamp roundabout proposal, Shaw

On the 8 January, Crompton and Shaw Borough ward Councillors attended a briefing by OMBC at which an officer from the Highways Department presented a proposal in relation to the Big Lamp roundabout in Shaw which would in essence remove the roundabout completely and replace it with a 'Cyclops' four-way junction arrangement comprising a traffic light system and new cycle lanes.

During this meeting, the Highways Officer reported that the scheme would cost between £3 and £5 million.

The Town Council promptly arranged a public consultation meeting on the 14 January to discuss this proposal with local residents to gauge their views before responding formally to Oldham Council.

The meeting was attended by many residents who expressed their concerns about the proposal and I write on their behalf as well as the Town Council's to seek answers and explanations regarding this proposal.

Therefore, I would be most grateful if you could please note and provide responses to the following matters that were raised at the meeting –

1. What are the benefits of the proposal?
2. At what stage of development is this proposal and would it require planning permission or other prior approval?
3. Will OMBC be undertaking public consultation in advance of any decision?
4. How is it to be funded and is there a timescale or deadline for spending this money?

5. What would be the recurring maintenance costs of this proposal (traffic lights etc)?
6. Have any feasibility studies or traffic surveys been carried out? If so, can you please share those studies/survey responses? How many cyclists have been reported injured or in an accident at the roundabout?
7. Have any local cycling clubs been consulted? If so, what was the outcome of the consultation?

In addition to the above questions, the following observations were also made at the meeting which are pertinent to the proposal:-

- a) The land area of the Cyclops junction takes up far more space than is available at the current roundabout.
- b) Research readily available shows that it can take up to five minutes for users to negotiate right-hand turns - cyclists will be unwilling to wait for this length of time and are more likely to take a chance on cutting across traffic lights, as we know from current observation of the behaviour of some cyclists at normal traffic lights.
- c) There seems to have been few incidents at this site - there are considerably more at the traffic lights near the petrol station, particularly with vehicles turning right towards the town centre. Also, the number of vehicles making a U-turn just after exiting the petrol station in contradiction of the traffic sign there.
- d) There are plenty of traffic lights in Shaw to control traffic at the moment, there doesn't seem to be any justification for more.
- e) The roads leading from the current roundabout quickly return to narrower normal two-lane roads - the Cyclops junction would not alleviate that, so what is the point? Also, there are side junctions within 150 metres of the roundabout at the moment - traffic joining from these would be faced with a larger build-up of traffic than currently.
- f) Disruption caused by construction work and the congestion of lorries would essentially close Shaw off from Royton and Oldham.
- g) There are concerns that this proposal would lead to the creation of a cycle 'race track'.
- h) The recent building of dedicated cycle lanes on Manchester Road, Castleton (Rochdale) caused outrage amongst local residents as well as businesses who reported a 50% loss of trade due to the new road configuration as customers/passing trade can no longer park outside shops.
- i) The Big Lamp roundabout is and has been a significant and well-loved landmark for many years providing a gateway to Shaw and Crompton from Oldham and is an effective traffic calming measure.

Finally, thank you for taking the time to read all of the above and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Tony Hilton

Tony Hilton, CiLCA
Chief Officer/RFO, Shaw & Crompton Town Council