



Tisbury Parish Council

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Statement regarding the South West Wiltshire Local Highways and Footpath Group's Proposal to increase Parish and Town Council Contribution

Tisbury Parish Council objects strongly to an increase in the Town and Parish Council contribution to the cost of local highway improvement projects within the area of the South West Area Board on the following grounds:

- Highway improvements are the statutory responsibility of the Local Highway Authority and the Local Highway and Footpath Improvement Group's (LHFIG) budget should be increased annually at a level of inflation specific to that sector.
- If an increase is approved, any increase should apply to all LHFIG groups within Wiltshire and not solely to those towns and parishes within South West Wiltshire.
- Any increase should be the same for both towns and parishes and there should be no proportionate charge or 'means testing'.
- The towns and larger parishes have greater obligations to provide services which incur additional costs and staff costs. Many of these services benefit the smaller parishes but at no cost to them.
- If smaller parishes propose to complete a highway improvement project, the cost of their contribution should be met by their residents through consultation, prudent financial management and the raising of their precepts either temporarily or permanently. It should not be met by the taxpayers of the towns and larger parishes paying more.

5th September 2023