

5 March 2024

Dear

Request for information - ATISN 20181

Your request

You asked for the following information:

1. Could you provide me with the assessments that have taken place in line with the Active Travel Act (2013) and Active Travel Guidelines for the proposed Merlin Crescent Cycle path, located in Cefn Glas, Bridgend. Specifically, the considerations that have been made for the safety of cycle path users, pedestrians as well as residents.
2. Could you also provide me with the correspondence between Bridgend County Borough Council and Welsh Government on the proposed cycle path.
3. What consultations took place with the community regarding the cycle path proposal and when were they? Were there also any recorded minutes?
4. What considerations have been made regarding Merlin Crescent's gradient, the effect on parking along the road, as well as residential driveways that would be impacted.

Our Response

I am writing to inform you that some of the information you have requested is not held by the Welsh Government. We do not hold the information you have requested for questions 1, 3 and 4. However, I believe that Bridgend County Borough Council holds information which you are seeking. You can contact the Council at <https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/my-council/customer-services/contact-us/>. Applications for funding from our Active Travel Fund are submitted online to Transport for Wales, who manage the grant on the Welsh Government's behalf. They may therefore also be holding some information relevant to the request.

For question 2, please see email correspondence below following an enquiry from a resident:

Correspondence from Welsh Government & response from Bridgend. Thursday, January 25, 2024 (personal information redacted).

Welsh Government	Bridgend County Borough Council
Prynhawn Da [information redacted] How are you? I hope not too busy with SRIC and/or ATF applications! I've had a call from a resident who has a petition against a proposed cycle	[information redacted] The Merlin Crescent scheme is our flagship ATR scheme for next year. We have had discussions with Sustrans and TfW on this and they support the

<p>route on Merlin Crescent (near Bryntirion School) – although I can't find it in any previous ATF bids. According to the resident, the design of the cycle route goes against all our guidance as the hill is too steep, cars from driveways will clash with cyclists and kill them and it's not fair that the drivers will be responsible, there are too many lampposts, and also too many cars parking, as well as traffic going too fast even with the new 20mph limits (their thoughts not mine). The resident has been told that the cycle lane will be built in March. The biggest thing they were concerned about was the lack of consultation with residents and school a they have a lot of feedback to share. Basically – I'm just trying to find out more information about this so I can go back and justify why it's happening and give them some more information on any consultation that will be happening. I just had a quick chat with [information redacted] and they suggested I get in touch with you as there have been discussions around a consultation and from the sounds of it, there might be some complaints from residents (although – when are active travel community consultations ever easy?!). Therefore, can you please clarify if there a consultation or engagement planned with the residents? Is the school consultation going ahead? Even if you don't have a lot of details now, it would be good to get your steer on what I should / shouldn't say to the resident next week.</p> <p>[information redacted]</p>	<p>scheme. In the middle of December 2023, officers had a site meeting with local Members, the Cabinet Member and the Leader to discuss the scheme. We also discussed the scheme with the School Manager and arranged with [information redacted] to do an engagement session with the school. Unfortunately, Christmas events got in the way so it was not possible to meet the pupils. I have since the start of January had discussions with the headteacher and once bids have been submitted, engagement sessions will commence, either separately or jointly with pupils and the community. Members expressed some concerns during the site meeting, and they made a suggestion that in their view should make the scheme safe and attractive. They suggested the provision of speed cushions, was accepted and as result the scheme has been designed with two speed cushions incorporated. The MERLIN Crescent scheme is a long route that has been split into three phases. The current proposal is the middle section. If it does not go ahead, the whole of the route would be at risk. The speed cushions to slow down traffic are as a result of the active travel route. We are also proposing dropped kerbs in Bryntirion. These too would be at risk if there is no active travel route. The public engagement slated for February will be attended by officers from BCBC, Sustrans and TfW. It will also be distributed on social media platforms.</p> <p>[information redacted]</p>
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Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,

Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedomofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely