

Chard Junction meeting SCC 20 November 2017 10am

*Attended: Cllr. G. Beattie, Cllr. S. Beattie, Cllr. J. Davison.
Clerk. Mr. R Goody and representatives from SCC.*

The view of SCC was that they have no money for a feasibility study. It was suggested that a study of this kind could cost hundreds of thousands of pounds. Their anecdotal view was that in order to secure that kind of investment we would need significant housing growth (significant = approx 3,000 houses) in order to justify the investment. The money would need to be in place then a feasibility and engineering study could be carried out. The commencement of a feasibility and engineering study would be no guarantee that the project would go ahead.

The lack of bus facilities in the village was raised Services are infrequent and do not run in the evenings. SCCs response was that it is a commercial market and if a company feels it is an areas of value then they will invest, but they haven't. They recognise that there is a need for transport but there is no funding available from SCC. Again a significant level of housing development would be needed.

The next stages for SCC are

- SCC to talk to SDC about housing. See what future development plans are and when it is likely to happen and consider section 106 money for a Chard Junction feasibility and engineering study. However there are lot of conflicting priorities for section 106 money
- See if there are opportunities to combine Chard Junction with the Devon Metro route
- Talk to Somerset bus companies to see if routes can be improved.

SCC confirmed they would keep T&F PC informed.

There was a consultation of the surrounding areas / villages to enquire about the likely usage of Chard Junction but it transpired that this study was carried out 10 years or so ago and it was felt this was now out of date.

Cllr. Jane Davison
November 2017