

MRN bids as a consequence of that work by Mendip. The final decision to include them in these bids was taken in July 2019 and they were made public in briefings by Mendip District Council in August.

Like many people locally, I would like to see the pinch points at Chilkwell Street and Pilton resolved. However, there is much more work needed to consider other options, develop those in detail, consult with the community, and then make the case to Government. Whilst the current MRN bid will not succeed, I've suggested to both the district and county councils that such embryonic plans should not have been promoted and that it would be better if they were withdrawn until better developed and with public support secured.

Our intent to address these pinch points should, however, remain in the minds of the regional transport board so that we receive their backing once our plans are better developed. In the meantime, I will continue to promote the Ashcott/Walton LLM bid as our priority.

Yours faithfully,

James Hoopery