WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE BY DEPUTY R.J. WARD OF ST. HELIER QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2021 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2021

Question

Will the Minister advise what work, if any, has been undertaken to date to bring forward the changes outlined in 'Green Lanes and quiet lanes: priority to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders' (P.79/2020), adopted as amended by the Comité des Connétables?

Answer

While the Minister for Infrastructure administers the Road Traffic Law (Jersey) 1956 and is responsible for administering main roads, the Parishes are the legal Road Authorities for administering the by-roads.

Clause (c) of the Proposition requests "...the Comité des Connétables, in consultation with the Minister for Infrastructure, to bring forward for approval the necessary changes to legislation to give effect to paragraphs (a) Page - 3 P.79/2020 Amd. and (b) by the first quarter of 2021, if considered practicable by the Comité and the Minister" [Emphasis added]

As the legal entities responsible for the administration of the parish roads, the onus can only be on parishes to initiate any consultation. The Minister for Infrastructure is not able to direct the parish road authorities how to act. Indeed, it would be informative for the Deputy to meet with the Comité to understand their position directly.

Notwithstanding this, I have been advised by the Comité that advice is being sought as to whether it is practicable to enact Clause (a). Until this has been established, it is not possible for the Comité to consult with the Minister for Infrastructure on any changes to the Road Traffic Law (Jersey) 1956 or know whether the remainder of measures set out in P.79/2020 are practicable.

In the meanwhile, I have asked officers to provisionally include it in the rapid plans identified in the STP, this is largely expected to feature in the Active Travel Plan which will support non-motorised journeys.