

## By-Pass:

# Mr. Kermode's Offer Not Accepted

Christchurch Times Jan. 8, 1960

**MR. STANLEY KERMODE'S offer of £500 towards the cost of traffic lights on the by-pass has been turned down by the County Council.** The offer was made early last month. Mr. Kermode, a former County Councillor, said he was prepared to meet the cost of installing traffic lights in the intersection of the by-pass with subsidiary roads.

He suggested to the County that traffic lights should be installed if only as a temporary expedient. "It should cost less than £500," he wrote, "but if it costs three or four times that sum I will meet it because it is the only simple and effective way of preventing further loss of "life." A letter to Mr. Kermode from the County states: "The committee [Roads and Bridges) appreciated the sincerity of your concern about the problem which has led to your generous offer of financial assistance towards the cost of providing traffic lights. "You will know, however, that such lights can only be installed with the approval of the Minister of Transport, and that the Ministry remain firmly of the view that traffic lights at these crossings are not justified in view of the comparatively small volume of traffic using the side roads.

Written by the Clerk to the County Council (Mr. G. A. Wheatley), the letter continues: "My committee cannot agree that the present circumstances justify either the expenditure which would be involved on the provision of roundabouts or call for the imposition of a speed limit.

### PROPER COURSE

"As the approval of the Minister of Transport has recently been received to the alteration of the layout at the Burton Road junction along the lines originally recommended by the Ministry, the committee came to the conclusion that the proper course would be to take steps straight away to modify the lay-out of the junction in accordance with the Ministry's suggestion in the hope that this step would afford a solution of the problem.

"It was intended, of course, when the lay-out had been altered in this way that the position should be kept under observation so that yet further consideration could subsequently be given to the matter if the modification did not appear to have improved conditions. "So far as the Stony Lane crossing is concerned, the committee again expressed the view that the southern approach to the by-pass should be closed and decided to urge the Borough Council to consider taking steps to achieve this."

### UNABLE TO AGREE

Mr. Wheatley stated that he now understood the Christchurch Council had decided they were unable to agree with the proposals of the County Roads and Bridges Committee, and instead were intending to send a deputation to the Minister to press for some other solution, such as the provision of roundabouts or the imposition of a speed limit.

The letter adds: "The County Roads and Bridges Committee had asked the County Surveyor to put the work at Burton Road crossing in hand as a matter of urgency in the hope that the modification that was envisaged would prove, at least in some degree, to be successful. But you will appreciate that the decision of the Borough Council will mean that whilst a solution may eventually result, nothing will be done in the immediate future to deal with this problem about which so much concern is being expressed."

### HOW MANY LIVES . . . ?

Commenting on the letter, Mr. Kermode told the C.T.: "It is noted the County Roads Committee on which Christchurch is not represented cannot agree that the long list of accidents and the serious loss of life

justifies the expense of providing roundabouts to make the road safe. Can I ask once again— 'How many lives equal one roundabout?'

"That committee knows and cares so little about our problems that the chairman admitted to me in open Council that he did not know that Bournemouth to London traffic was being misdirected through Christchurch instead of via Ringwood and the A.31.

"In 1956 the Ministry representative stated that in view of the large volume of traffic passing through Christchurch we needed a double carriageway, but he too apparently failed to notice that London traffic was being misdirected and that when queues stretched as far back as Iford Bridge, Wimborne Road, Bournemouth, which leads to the A.31, the officially recognised Bournemouth to London route, was almost deserted

### STICK TO GUNS

Mr. Kermode added: "I do hope the deputation from Christchurch will stick to their guns, and if the Ministry will not agree they will ask for a public inquiry at which the police and others may give evidence.

"It is worth remembering that the County Roads Committee tried to remove the speed limit on Somerford Road. At the inquiry they did not call the police because they knew the police wanted the speed limit to remain. However, the police and others may give church Council won the day."

### SUMMIT AIM

Christchurch Council decided at its last meeting to aim at summit level talks with the Minister of Transport. They have requested the Minister to receive a deputation and have asked the Member of Parliament (Mr. John Cordle) to support them.

The Council's letter to the Minister was acknowledged this week, and it was stated that the matter was receiving attention.