

09/01/18

To the newsdesk,

For the last 3 journeys home, after working at Aztec West, I have been held up by more than half-an-hour trying to leave the Aztec West business park due to the new traffic lights recently installed.

This regular additional half-an-hour to complete the first half-mile of my commute is now affecting family life.

It means I do not get home in time to see my children before they go to bed, which I believe dramatically reduces both my and their quality of life.

It also is an environmental catastrophe, stationary cars around the entire Aztec West loop with their engine's running to keep their occupants warm, waiting to move an inch forward. The CO2 and diesel particulates being emitted by this stationary traffic before engines are fully warmed up is surely significant, considering the jams frequently last for 2 hours or more.

The new road layout has encouraged some very questionable driving behaviour, in part due to the frustration of trying to get home. Every night I see people driving in filtering lanes out of the Aztec West business park intended for Bradley Stoke or a right turn on the A38, then pushing in just before the end of the left filter lane to the A38 and the M5. Alternatively, drivers will continue onto the roundabout using the Bradley Stoke lanes, but then turn left at the roundabout to jump the queue in the filter lane. In doing so they cause a hold up that prevents the people in the correct filter lane from being able to make progress when the lights turn green as they block the exit lane.

While this may not be illegal, it is at best inconsiderate of everyone else in the queue, and incredibly disappointing that a new and no-doubt very expensive road layout has contributed to this behaviour by making it possible.

In short, these road updates have been a complete failure. Occasionally there was traffic like this before the changes, usually for a good reason such as a motorway accident, but it was never for 3 consecutive days in a row with no incidents in sight.

South Gloucestershire council should be bold enough to recognise that their expensive solution isn't working, and revert at least some of the bad solutions they are responsible for implementing. Perhaps disabling the traffic lights on the left filter lane may help to restore the balance, but I am no expert, I am just a very dissatisfied end-user.

It may seem a minor inconvenience to them to hear these complaints. It may seem acceptable to state that the contractor is responsible, or the sequence of lights is not fully synchronised with neighbouring roundabouts but is undergoing continual improvement. Surely the sequencing of lights would have been one of the most important studies they would completed, with trial runs and temporary lights, to prove the solution works before embarking on such an expensive project. Why is it taking so long to get this right now?

Their apathy in this matter directly affects peoples lives, the ability to see their families after work, and health. It should be a much higher priority for them.

I tried to email South Gloucestershire Council directly but their website seems to discourage such communication. I can easily report a new pothole, but I cannot report incompetence in their planning department.

So I am writing to you instead, in the hope that you know who to forward this onto as part of your recent coverage.

Regards,

*Name withheld*