

## **Meeting with Owen Paterson 10.11.17 to discuss potential Relief Road around Wem**

### **Present**

Cllr Edward Towers, (Mayor Wem Town Council), Cllr Tim Wilton- Morgan (Wem Rural Parish Council) Owen Paterson (MP) , Steve Davenport, Steve Brown, Matt Johnson (Shropshire Council).

P O'Hagan – (Town Clerk Wem Town Council)

At the start of the meeting Owen Paterson reported that he had visited Chris Grayling MP Minister for Transport to discuss the proposals for a relief road around Wem to be considered for government funding and had been informed that the Department of Transport scheme will not fund relief roads around towns that do not have an A road running through them.

Therefore unless other Government funding can be identified, the relief road will have to be built and funded by Shropshire Council in its entirety.

A general discussion took place on the route of the relief road if it were to be built and Owen Paterson proposed that the best route for the road to take would be from the Shawbury Road crossing Saulton Road and linking into Whitchurch Road south of Creamore Farm.

Mr Paterson stated that if a road were to be built one of the ways of funding it would be through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments that would be paid if more land for housing development was approved on the East side of the town an area that the Town Council had always opposed for development due to access problems. A discussion took place on the potential cost of the new road and the number of houses that would need to be built to fund the road and Steve Brown agreed that he would discuss this with the planning policy team. In addition to this it was also pointed out that if the relief road was to be funded through CIL payments then there would be no funding for additional infrastructure improvements in the town.

Cllr Towers and Cllr Wilton-Morgan stated that both Wem Town Council and Wem Rural Parish Councils had agreed in principle of the need for a relief road around Wem. However, it was important that the views of the community were sought on the proposals before any further discussion took place.

It was reported that the Town Council would be sending a survey to every home in the Town asking about the amount of future housing development residents would like to see and whether they would be willing to agree to additional housing developments in order to fund the road. The results of the survey would be considered at a meeting of the Planning and Transport Committee to be held on 18.12.17. Cllr Wilton-Morgan also reported that Wem Rural PC would also be contacting residents to seek opinions on the proposed road.

Steve Brown from Shropshire Council highlighted the need to manage the expectations of the residents in regard to this project as it would be a long term project and would not happen overnight due to the amount of money that would have to be found to pay for the road.

A general discussion took place on the possibility of also relocating the station to closer to the industrial estate with improved parking provision and it was agreed that this may be something to consider in the future if the opportunity arose.

It was agreed by everyone that the meeting had been useful and that the group would meet again in the New Year once the results of the public consultation had been collated.

Meeting ended at 12.00