



Department
for Transport

Department for Transport
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Our Ref: 398668

9 May 2022

Helen Ball BA (Hons) FSLCC
Town Clerk
Shrewsbury Town Council
Riggs Hall, The Library
Castle Gates
Shrewsbury
SY1 2AS

Dear Helen Ball,

Shrewsbury North West Relief Road (NWRR)

Thank you for your letter of 27th April to the Secretary of State. Ministers receive many thousands of items of correspondence each year and I hope you will appreciate that it is not possible for them to reply to each one personally in addition to discharging their other ministerial duties. Your letter was passed to the Major Road Network Programme Delivery team and I have been asked to reply.

I am grateful to you for setting out your concerns about the proposed Shrewsbury North West Relief Road. Shropshire Council, as the highways authority, are responsible for identifying and assessing potential solutions to their transport problems and for deciding on the way they wish to proceed. The Government believes that local highway authorities are best placed to understand the transport problems they face on their local road networks and to identify the most appropriate solutions to solve them, working with local stakeholders and residents.

The Council's proposal for a North West Relief Road was approved in principle by Ministers in 2019 with a maximum Department for Transport funding contribution of £54.4 million. Final approval is subject to the Council obtaining any planning and other statutory consents, carrying out a procurement exercise and submitting a final business case to the Department. We will assess all aspects of the business case, if planning and any other consents are obtained by the Council, and Ministers will then make a final decision on whether to fund the scheme.

The Council is currently at the stage of undertaking detailed design work and seeking all the necessary planning and legal consents needed to take the scheme forwards. The planning application process provides the opportunity for people to take part in the local decision-making process by expressing their views and raising any concerns about the scheme. Any objections raised during the planning process are for the local planning committee to consider. The Department plays no part in the consideration of local planning matters.

Thank you for taking the time to contact the Department to explain your concerns about the scheme.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Fox'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a distinct 'F'.

Robert Fox