

## **COUNCIL 2 MARCH 2023**

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

#### **Question from Mr Mike Streetly**

In response to my question to Shropshire Council regarding the budget for the North West Relief Road (NWRR), on 2 March 2023 councillor Marshall stated that the spend to date, post Outline Business Case (OBC), was £16.5M and that that figure was within the currently agreed spending profile for the project.

I note that the post funding report to council on 16 May 2019 stated that the maximum spend on the NWRR project up to the point at which final DfT approval was received would be £15M. The report also states that the council received £942,875 from the LLM in 2016 to fund the OBC suggesting a total budget including OBC of ~£16M. I also note that in August 2022 the council stated that the total spend at that point was £18.1M with a further £2.3M to be spent.

To clarify this could the council please say what the total spend on the combined NWRR project (including the OBC) is to date and what it anticipates the total spend being if it progresses to the point at which it is ready for approval by DfT.

#### **Question from John Lill**

Launching the IPCC Synthesis Report last week, the UN secretary general, António Guterres, said: "This report is a clarion call to massively fast-track climate efforts by every country and every sector and on every timeframe. Our world needs climate action on all fronts: everything, everywhere, all at once."

Does Shropshire Council share this sense of urgency regarding the climate emergency and, in light of this, does the council plan to work to restrict or prevent developments that result in an increase in greenhouse gases wherever it can?

#### **Question from Dr Natasha Harlow**

Shropshire Council prides itself on being one of the more forward thinking councils in the UK, putting climate considerations at the heart of governance. This awareness needs to include every aspect of council activities, including the provision of food. I believe Shropshire is well placed to show leadership by setting an example to the wider community regarding awareness of the climate impact of the food we eat. Other councils, for example Oxfordshire, Cambridge City, and Exeter City, have committed to serve only plant-based food at their internal events.

Therefore, given the climate emergency and our stated aim to reduce emissions, will Shropshire Council commit to serving fully plant-based fare at all future internal events that are catered, as other councils have done? Even if this only applies to refreshments at a very small number of events per year, it will be a small step that sends a powerful message. This is the logical, and necessary next step after having

declared a climate emergency. It will help normalise plant-based eating, which according to an Oxford University study is the single most effective thing an individual can do to reduce their environmental impact.

We are currently in a cost of living crisis. Meat and dairy products are almost always the most expensive part of a meal - wholefood plant-based meals made with real ingredients are considerably cheaper. By doing the right thing for the planet, and promoting eating for good health, the council can also encourage residents to save money on food.

### **Question from Dr Jamie Russell**

There are currently 5,452 comments on the North West Road planning application with 5,219 objections and 218 in support. I believe this is a new record for public comments on a Shropshire planning application. Objections have been received from four local town councils (including Shrewsbury, which the road will supposedly benefit), eight county businesses, ten transport campaign groups, and eight environmental campaign groups.

With this in mind, I would like to ask:

1. Does the administration agree with the Portfolio Holder for Highways when he says that the objections from the public, multiple Shropshire town councils, national bodies like Cycling UK and the Woodland Trust, and statutory bodies like the Environment Agency are just the reaction of 'a vocal minority'?
2. Given the level of concern over the plans, which have been through several major revisions since 2019, will the council commit to a new round of public consultation before the application is submitted to planning?

Thank you

### **Question from Rita Makin**

In recent years, there seems to be an increase in dog fouling on pavements, grass verges and public places around Shrewsbury.

It is an offence to not pick up after your dog, so please can you tell me how many fines have been issued in the last three years?

### **Question from Debbie Feasey on behalf of the residents of Underdale**

On 28/09/22 Shropshire Council gave notice that "prior approval" was not required for the erection of a 16m 5G Telecomms Mast on Robertson Way directly overlooking homes on Eden Close and Oswell Road in Underdale.

What other sites were considered but discounted?

Could you detail the distance from residential properties and any analysis showing the current location as the most appropriate site for a 16m mast?

Do you think it is appropriate to have a 16-metre mast so close to people's homes? Was the impact of this mast on residents' mental health, wellbeing, and the value of their properties considered?

Did Shropshire Council benefit directly or indirectly from its decision on 28th September? Why were the residents not consulted since this is clearly in breach of the "Code of Practice for Wireless Network Development"?

In the Council's Development Management Report on this mast, Section 8.2 Human Rights, it states that "Article 8 gives the right to respect for private and family life and First Protocol Article 1 allows for the peaceful enjoyment of possessions." How is a 16metre mast so close to homes providing peaceful enjoyment of possessions?

In the same report section 8.2, it states that "First Protocol Article 1 requires that the desires of landowners must be balanced against the impact on residents". Will the Council apologise for its failure to properly consider the impact on residents and mitigate its mistake by getting CK Hutchison Networks (UK) Ltd to remove the mast to a more suitable location?