

The Rt Hon Greg Clark MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

By email to: [greg.clark@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:greg.clark@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

13 June, 2016

Dear Mr Clark,

**Request for call-in of Hereford Southern Link Road decision – Herefordshire Council planning application no 151314**

Campaign for Better Transport is an environmental campaign group that promotes sustainable transport policies. Our vision is a country where communities have affordable transport that improves quality of life and protects the environment.

We objected to the Hereford Southern Link Road proposal on the grounds that it would:

- Waste public money, creating a lot of harm for little or no benefit
- Result in considerable loss of best and most versatile agricultural land
- Lead to the loss of ancient woodland at Grafton Wood and elsewhere contrary to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), paragraph 118
- Damage the landscape and cause harm to the setting of Hereford contrary to the NPPF, paragraph 109
- Cause substantial light and noise pollution
- Harm heritage assets such as the setting of Haywood Lodge and destroy an Iron Age settlement contrary to the NPPF, paragraphs 131 - 133
- Do very little to relief traffic in Hereford, given that only 15% of all traffic is through traffic

In addition, other more sustainable and less damaging alternatives to a new road were not properly considered. Given that 85% of all traffic is heading into Hereford itself and not through it, there should be plenty of opportunities to reduce this through a series of measures to improve the

infrastructure for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. In doing so, this is likely to make the centre of Hereford a more attractive place which would strengthen the local economy. This approach sits far more comfortably with the NPPF, paragraph 8 which advocates that “economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system”. In contrast, it is difficult to see how the current proposal would meet this requirement, or that of the NPPF core planning principles, listed in paragraph 17, to:

“contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution...”

“actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable”

While the Council may have considered these issues in committee last week (6 June), we do not feel that it has given them sufficient weight when coming to its conclusions and as a result we believe the decision to be flawed and contrary to the NPPF. We also understand that the authority has a conflict of interest in being a landowner adjacent to the application site and thus had an interest in seeing the application approved.

Therefore given the level of local concern about this road and in order to ensure proper scrutiny of the proposals we wish to request that you call in the application.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Joseph". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Stephen Joseph**  
Chief Executive,  
Campaign for Better Transport