



DAVID T C DAVIES MP
Member for Monmouth

Please reply to:
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Date: 15 June 2020
Our Ref: DD2612
Your Ref:

Mr Allan Pitt
Principal Planner | Consulting
Arup
4 Pierhead Street
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Dear Mr Pitt

Re: Chepstow Transport Study; WelTAG Stage Two

As the constituency Member of Parliament for Monmouth, I very much welcome the opportunity to contribute my thoughts to this WelTAG2 transport study and provide feedback on Option H2: Chepstow Bypass (Beachley and Sedbury).

The abolition of Severn crossing tolls represents a huge opportunity for economic growth in Monmouthshire and the Forest of Dean. However, the road infrastructure from the M48 on to the A48 – a key strategic route linking south east Wales with England - is wholly inadequate. The A48 at Hardwick Hill in Chepstow and A466 High Beech roundabout are already suffering from chronic traffic congestion; while air pollution in the town exceeds limits set by the World Health Organization (WHO). Journeys which should take minutes can often take an hour longer than necessary.

There are also grave concerns over plans for a “sustainable new community” of 200 homes on the edge of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) at the Bayfields in Chepstow. With approval granted to build up to 450 houses on the former Mabey Bridge site close to the town centre, coupled with hundreds more approved nearby in south Gloucestershire, further development will cripple Chepstow unless these infrastructure challenges are tackled.

A bypass around Chepstow to divert traffic travelling between the Forest of Dean and M48 Severn Bridge junction away from the A48 at Hardwick Hill is the only logical solution. I would strongly support this and remain committed to working with all branches of government on both sides of the border to facilitate a priority scheme.

Yours sincerely

David T C Davies MP

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