



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

6 August 2014

Balfour Beatty Living Places
Unit 3 Thorn Business Park
Rotherwas
Hereford
HR2 6JT

Dear Sir or Madam,

SOUTH WYE TRANSPORT PACKAGE

I am writing to respond to the above consultation, in my capacity as Member of Parliament for Hereford and South Herefordshire, but also as a local resident and a regular user of the A49 and A465 in Hereford.

I would first like to commend Balfour Beatty Living Places and Herefordshire Council for the efforts they have made to raise local awareness of this consultation; and particularly for holding long-running public exhibitions at the Three Counties Hotel and Hereford Library.

I welcome the objectives of the South Wye Transport Package and am broadly in favour of the measures proposed to improve accessibility and reduce congestion in Hereford, subject to the caveats and concerns expressed below.

I have a number of comments which I hope you will take into account:

Southern Link Road

The consultation documents do not contain any current costings or detailed traffic modelling. Without this information it is difficult to appraise what effect a Southern Link Road would have on traffic in Hereford – and whether it would represent good value for money. As a result it is unclear how, for example, a Southern Link Road would compare with an Eastern Link Road in a cost-benefit analysis, especially in relation to improving access to the Enterprise Zone.

The Southern Link Road should thus be given a detailed cost-benefit analysis of its own, before the South Wye Transport Package is finally approved.

It is also important that any Southern Link Road is planned with the utmost sensitivity to the environment and to people living in the vicinity. There is a great deal of local concern about potential routes and inadequate mitigation or consideration. I would urge Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council to give their fullest attention to these concerns.



Sustainable Transport Measures

I welcome the proposed additional pedestrian crossings at Walnut Tree Avenue, Holme Lacy Road and Belmont Roundabout in Hereford. These have the potential to make walking feel much safer in the South Wye Area.

The consultation does not mention the existing cycle routes in the South Wye area, namely the Hereford Greenway at Rotherwas/Holme Lacy, the Great Western Way and the river path. These are already very popular but many of my constituents feel unsafe using these routes at quieter times. I would encourage Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council to consult closely with local people and the police to look at all the different ways to make these routes safer and more welcoming.

The consultation contains insufficient information about how the proposed inbound bus lane on the A465 would work. Would the bus lane be in operation 24/7? How would it be enforced? It seems that more information and consultation is needed. Furthermore, at a time when Herefordshire Council is cutting subsidies for bus services it is not clear whether some of the money to be spent on a bus lane might better be spent on more services.

I very much hope that Balfour Beatty and Herefordshire Council will take these concerns, which are widely shared, into consideration.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jesse Norman".

Jesse Norman
Member of Parliament
Hereford and South Herefordshire