

September 5 2017



The Inspector : Telford Local Plan

Dear Sir / Madam

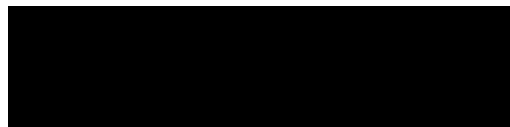
A former employee of the National Trust for twenty two years, I retired six years ago to live in Shrewsbury. I soon became involved with the activities of The Shrewsbury & Newport Canal Trust and have since been an active member of a very determined group of like-minded conservationists who are happy to involve themselves in practical / physical work helping to improve the environment and help preserve part of our industrial heritage.

I was a member of the team that cleared the area around the Trench Branch of the canal at Hadley last year. The purpose of this , as you will know, was to enable the rare Guillotine Locks to be dismantled and restored . I have also recently given practical assistance with preparing the Wappenshall site for viewing by the Lottery Fund assessors.

I believe firmly that the canal network , especially in the Telford area is crucial for the health and well being of the people of Telford . I am personally not interested in narrow boats nor the navigability of the canal. For me, with my background in conservation, I see its unique roll as a linear park and nature reserve linking the town to the countryside. I also see it as a major educational asset, whose very existence helps to tell the story of Telford's industrial past. Its loss would be a catastrophe to the town and would inevitably destroy the feasibility of restoration of the canal across Shropshire.

I very much support your proposals to safeguard the line of the canal within the Telford and Wrekin area. Failure to do so would be totally shortsighted and would , in the long run be failing future generations not only in Telford and Wrekin but also across the county.

Yours sincerely



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