



*Keeping our waterways alive*

**Shrewsbury District & North Wales Branch**

13 September 2017

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL – LOCAL PLAN 2011-31**

**RESPONSE FROM THE INLAND WATERWAYS ASSOCIATION (“IWA”)**

The Inland Waterways Association (IWA) is a registered charity, founded in 1946, which advocates the conservation, use, maintenance, restoration and development of the inland waterways for public benefit.

IWA members’ interests include boating, towpath walking, industrial archaeology, nature conservation and many other activities associated with the inland waterways.

IWA works closely with navigation authorities, other waterway bodies, and a wide range of national and local authorities, voluntary, private and public sector organisations.

The Inland Waterways Association has campaigned for over seventy years to protect and develop our inland waterways and has actively supported the restoration of the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals over many years.

IWA believes strongly that the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals will be an asset bringing social, economic and environmental benefits to the area, as well as being a valuable addition to the waterway network that extends across the country.

IWA therefore strongly supports the modifications to Telford & Wrekin Council’s Local Plan as proposed by the Planning Inspector, these being:

*"The Council will safeguard the alignment of the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals (as shown on the Policies Plan) with a view to their long-term re-establishment as navigable waterways by:*

- i. Not supporting development likely to destroy the canal alignment or its associated structures*
- ii. Ensuring that when the canal is affected by development the alignment is protected or an alternative alignment provided.*

*Proposals for the restoration of the Shrewsbury to Newport canal will only be supported where they can demonstrate that there will be no adverse impacts upon the natural and historic environment including designated sites, heritage assets, habitats and species in accordance with Policies NE1, NE2, BE4, BE6 and BE8"*

IWA believes that the inclusion of policies as outlined above within the Town Plan will protect the line of the canal from future development and enhance the significant efforts of the voluntary sector in restoring the canal to the benefit of local residents and businesses.

Michael Haig

**Chairman**

**Shrewsbury District & North Wales Branch**

**The Inland Waterways Association**

