

From: Brian Nelson [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 September 2017 08:41
To: LocalPlan
Subject: Response to T&W Local Plan Consultation

Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Kelly & Officers of Telford & Wrekin Council

I refer to my earlier communications with the authority in respect of the decision by Telford and Wrekin Council (T&WC) not to protect the route of the Shrewsbury and Newport Canals from encroaching development within the proposals for its Local Plan 2011-2031.

May I say how heartened and relieved I was to read the response of the Inspector, Mr Michael Hetherington, where he proposed that the following wording should be included:

"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."*

I would wish to give my full support to the incorporation of this wording within the proposed plan as I feel that this would give the protection which the canal route requires if it is to avoid encroaching development which might prevent the future restoration of the canals with all of the benefits that this will bring both to the residents of Telford & Wrekin and to the many potential users of these waterways from further afield. It will also enable the restored canals to bring very significant economic benefit to the local area through investment and tourism as has been amply demonstrated in the many successful canal restoration projects up and down the country. Additionally it will bring the authority in line with its neighbours in Staffordshire and Shropshire and avoid the actions of T&WC preventing those authorities from enabling the full restoration of these canals from Shrewsbury to the current navigable network at Norbury Junction.

Can I also refer to the other wording which Mr Hetherington has recommended for inclusion:

"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"

I can understand the reasoning for the inclusion of such matters but could I propose that the word "unmitigated" be added before the word "adverse". I feel this would offer a fair level of protection for both the natural and heritage assets whilst giving those charged with restoring the canal reasonable opportunity to put in place suitable measures to mitigate against significant adverse impacts as has taken place in many other canal restorations.

For the purpose of accuracy, and the avoidance of doubt, may I also suggest that the second reference to the canals be changed from "Shrewsbury to Newport canal" to "Shrewsbury and Newport canals".

M05 - Brian Nelson

In the event that T&WC are minded to accept in full the proposed additions as recommended by Mr Hetherington I would be very happy to withdraw my earlier objection to the T&WC Local Plan as put forward at the previous stage.

Yours sincerely

Brian Nelson

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