

Luddington Parish Council

Consultation comment on WCC and Stratford District Council's newly published Transport Strategy for Stratford upon Avon Area

21 March 2017

We understand that the majority of parishioners and many Stratford residents are absolutely against current proposals for a South West Relief Road (SWRR), as contained in this Strategy; residents across the Parish will be most adversely affected by the proposed SWRR.

Luddington Parish Council therefore notes its formal objections against such proposals. We also attach objections from the Stratford Residents Action Group to any SWRR proposals.

1. Luddington is a Parish of approximately 325 people, on the outskirts of Stratford, hemmed in and fronting in places, the Evesham Road. Transport and traffic are already reoccurring issues for this ancient village; the Luddington Road is a winding unclassified road with listed and timber framed homes sitting directly on the road verge, already suffering structural damage from HGVs wrongly travelling through. Not only would the main access to the Luddington Road serving the village from the B439 be heavily urbanised by the proposals but on-going road safety is highly likely to be seriously compromised all along the Luddington Road, from the Racecourse and through the village of Luddington, due to increased 'rat running' by traffic trying to avoid queues on the Evesham Road and the increased likelihood of heavy duty HGVs and other traffic wrongly following SatNav directions off the SWRR.

The Parish covers the settlement of Dodwell, whose homes are directly adjacent to the busy B439. This is a settlement which has grown in size in recent years with the addition of Ambleside Care Home and growth in visitors to Dodwell Business Park. Consequent increased traffic and persistent speeding on the B439 have exacerbated already existing road safety issues that the Parish Council have raised with Warwickshire Highways and our County Councillors.

Therefore, without direct implementation of mitigation and protection measures, this Strategy's aim to 'improve road safety' will fail for our Parishioners

2. The proposed SWRR will most certainly seriously increase negative impact of air, noise and light pollution for hundreds of residents,

particularly those who live along the east end of Luddington Road and in Stannalls Close.

Therefore this Strategy's aim to 'reduce negative impact of traffic on air pollution', will fail for our parishioners.

3. With increased traffic and air and noise pollution the continuing value of the Luddington Road/ Greenway/ Racecourse/ River Avon valley areas as leisure cycle/walking routes will be destroyed.

Therefore this Strategy's aim 'to promote cycling and walking' will fail in the parish of Luddington, along the Luddington Road and the River Avon valley, the Greenway and around the Racecourse.

Luddington Parish Council calls for action from WCC and SDC to protect the parish from all the above failures, primarily by re-thinking the usefulness/harm balance that the SWRR would deliver or, at the very least implement robust mitigation measures to protect our environment.

- a) LPC demand robust design of the SWRR that strives to reduce air/ noise and light pollution. LPC has already asked Cllr Saint to set up a design competition with the RIBA, rather than simply allowing a developer to build the least sensitive option. We ask SDC/ WCC to seek additional funding via the recently established Housing infrastructure fund <http://www.insidehousing.co.uk/chancellor-launches-23bn-housing-infrastructure-fund/7017787.article> to ensure that sufficient money is available to cover the cost of delivering the best design possible; ensuring proper mitigation of the impact of visual blight, air and noise pollution, to the East Luddington Road community.
- b) Design out any direct access from the SWRR onto/off the Luddington Road to reduce the likelihood of 'rat running'.
- c) The identified ambitions of SDC to enhance residents' quality of life with improved leisure facilities, surely demands that any new infrastructure should be designed away from, rather than destroy, existing 'green' spaces, leisure walks and cycle ways. LPC call for SDC to protect and value the Luddington Road, Racecourse, Greenway and Avon River valley corridor, as such valuable, already well-used, accessible-to-all walking and cycling leisure assets as well as valued pedestrian access routes to the town centre.
- d) LPC asks SDC to follow through robustly on plans to take HGV traffic travelling from the Shipston Road to the M40 via an Eastern RR, so reducing the level of commercial traffic passing around the SWRR.

