COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO WITHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL – NOV 26

Haughmond Hill Quarry Consultation

The current operators of Haughmond Hill Quary, Holmcis, are proposing a new quarry to the north of Haughmond Abbey. I share many of the concerns expressed by residents and am assisting the 'Friends of Haughmond Hill' residents' group with their campaign. The site will be immediately adjacent to two national monuments and a grade 1 listed farmhouse. Despite reassurances from the Holcim reps, I believe that the transition phase between old and new quarries will involve a medium-term increase in HGV movements that will all go to the Sundorne roundabout with a subsequent impact on an already congested interchange and the wider road network around Shrewsbury. Also, given that the dust and blasting noise issues are very effectively mitigated by the depth of the aged existing quarry, the new surface excavations will be much more impactful than we have been used to for many years to come. Overall, I am concerned about some mixed messages about what exactly they are proposing, with different versions of plans for traffic volumes, diversion (or not?) of a high-pressure gas pipeline crossing the site and a proposed rerouting of the Shropshire Way. I will provide further updates as the application progresses.

North West Relief Road Task and Finish Group

I am chairing a T&F examining the ramifications of the NWRR cancellation and possible next steps. We have had two meetings already and we anticipate at least four subsequent meetings calling council officers and consultants involved in the project to explain what happened and then we will turn to possible alternative measures to improve traffic through and around Shrewsbury. I will of course be emphasising the difficulties introduced to an already congested road network by existing and imminent developments and ensure that this informs our recommendations. We are not a decision-making body, however our recommendations will be fed into relevant committees and the Cabinet to inform their work.

Brendan Mallon

Councillor for Tern