

RT HON OWEN PATERSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cllr Michael E Cowey
Mistletoe Bungalow, Candle Lane
Woore
Crewe
Cheshire CW3 9RB

5th September 2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael E Cowey".

Thank you for attending the meeting in Woore Victory Hall on 12th August and for taking the time to write to me.

I first knew about HS2's plans in the area when notices were put up in Woore and the parish council got in touch. I raised this matter at the first available opportunity in the House of Commons in a statement on 17th July. I then had a meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport in Westminster the following day to discuss this in more detail.

The meeting which you attended was extremely helpful. I was struck but not surprised by the real anger at the prospect of 500 trucks a day passing through the village. As you know, towards the end of the meeting, a possible solution emerged whereby the tunnel under Whitmore would be extended, which would obviate the necessity to bring so much heavy traffic through Woore. This was confirmed to me by representatives from HS2.

I have discussed this with Sir William Cash MP. We work closely together on local issues and as you know, I have agreed to support his campaign to extend the tunnel. Parliament returns from recess this week and I shall meet him tomorrow to discuss this further. I have also written to both the Secretary of State for Transport and to the Chairman of HS2 in support of this proposal. I will meet the Transport Secretary in Parliament on 12th September to raise this again and to discuss the proposal in more detail.

In the meantime, I have forwarded copies of your letter to the Secretary of State for Transport and to the Chairman of HS2 repeating my support for the extension of the Whitmore tunnel. I shall write again when I have received a response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Owen Paterson".

The Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP