 Clerk: Mr B.M. Morris

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12th August 2019

Tel: 07960 945771

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To: Mr Owen Paterson MP

 House of Commons

Date: 12th August 2019

Dear Mr Paterson,

We are writing further to our correspondence dated 20th July 2019 and to update you on the deteriorating relationship with Shropshire Council.

We refer you to the email reply (9th August 2019) we received from Mr Clive Wright, CEO of Shropshire Council, received in response to our correspondence of 23rd July 2019, which was wholly inadequate to the issues raised within it. Despite acknowledging the strength of our case; *”Shropshire Council acknowledges the weight to your petition concerning the highways route for construction traffic relating to HS2”,* the tone of the cursory response suggests a measured ‘sitting on the fence’ with the only tentative action as seeking mitigation measures despite having a clear means at their disposal to halt the decimation the Parish of Woore by refusing use of the Highways in the manner described by HS2.

It seems equally clear that the SC Cabinet do not understand the geography of the County. “Woore Parish” is made up of seven communities. Mr Wright makes reference to the proposal that SC “will work to secure the appropriate mitigation of the impact on the Parish of Woore and other Shropshire Communities”. Woore Parish is the only section of Shropshire Council’s jurisdiction that will be impacted by HS2. He is also clear that the discussions remain with SC officers and HS2, despite the clear direction from the House of Commons to involve the Parish of Woore directly in all discussions related to HS2 and effects on the Parish.

There is no reference in the e-mail to other important questions we raised including:

gaining their support for the Parish Petition to the House of Lords; an undertaking to submit a Petition to the House of Lords themselves; making a public declaration that the SC are not engaged in secret negotiations under a non-disclosure agreement in an enterprise to seek funding and/or works for the county (a practice highlighted by Ms Antoinette Sandbach MP for Eddisbury during the 3rd reading of the HS2 Phase2a Bill in Parliament as a practice being commonly used).

We have responded in full to Mr Wright today, expressing our dismay at their poor and dismissive response and making it clear that we do want a full reply to all the questions we have raised and expect their support as our elected representatives. We provide copies of all the relevant correspondence referred to in this letter for your convenience and ask that you apply pressure to SC to support our endeavours.

Of equal concern, given the change in Prime Minister and the drastic personnel changes within Government departments, we are concerned that the suggested meeting with the then Minister for Transport, the Honourable Nusrat Ghani MP has lost traction and would ask that you press for a meeting at the earliest convenience of the new minister. We are very happy to Host the new minister should they wish to make a field visit to inform the deliberations.

Picking up our request that you take a formal Petition to the House of Lords in keeping with the Guidance to making a Petition to the House of Lords, it would be very reassuring to hear formally that you are willing to do so. The focus of the petition remains working towards gaining a decision which directs HS2 to use an alternative solution to the proposed route which is an illogical and expensive lengthy detour through our Parish and a formal requirement to revisit the Manor Road option.

We are very grateful for your continuing support in this matter and look forward to working with you as we take our petition to the House of Lords.

Yours sincerely,

M.E. Cowey

Chairman of Woore of Parish Council