

BRIDGWATER TOWN COUNCIL



TOWN HALL BRIDGWATER SOMERSET TA6 3AS 01278 427 692 07776 216670
townclerk@bridgwatertowncouncil.gov.uk

Dear Mr Southgate

EDF/HPC – BRIDGWATER HIGHWAY ISSUES & BYPASS TO NORTH OF TOWN

Please find below a resolution passed unanimously by the Bridgwater Town Council on Thursday of last week – 15 January 2015. The proposition was proposed by Cllr Leigh Redman and seconded by Cllr Graham Granter.

'Bypass resolution for next Bridgwater Town Council meeting' - proposed by Cllr Redman

This Council notes the planned road works associated with the Hinkley Point C power station development and the proposed modifications to a number of major road junctions in Bridgwater. Evidence shows that Bridgwater is approaching gridlock, adding in 2-3 years years of major disruption while junctions are modified for minimal benefit cannot be accepted, throughout the negotiations and inspector sessions the Town Council's position was to press for a major bypass for the north of our town, taking traffic around Bridgwater. The recently published detail for EDF's junction modifications has made a number of points clear, although supported in the development consent order the duration, negative impact and minimal benefit the works will provide was not apparent. With a proposed barrage now a realistic possibility the bypass is a more viable option that needs considering. Bridgwater Town Council calls on EDF & SCC to pause the current programme of HPC road works (including junction modifications) and carry out an urgent review, the review would seek to consider plans that can include recent developments and provide Bridgwater with a Bypass that will allow construction supplies better access, reduce an increasing negative impact on Bridgwater and leave a legacy that will truly benefit the town and our community for many years.

Bridgwater Town Council are becoming increasingly concerned by the impacts of traffic already evident from Junctions 23 & 24 along the A38 through the town to the A39 Cannington Road. It is already apparent that tinkering with the several junctions and relatively minor road improvements are no where near sufficient. The Town Council's stance from Day 1 has been to seek the construction of a bypass, crossing the River Parrett to the north of the town, and we have not wavered from that as expressed at every opportunity - not least throughout the DCO Inquiry. The Inspector did show some sympathy for this but it was opposed by EDF who maintained such proposal was a non starter. Traffic gridlock in our town is a near certainty and will surely affect adversely EDF's work programme, as well as normal movements. The so called 'legacy' of improvements proposed will unlikely deal with current users – leave aside – increases as the HPC construction programme goes forward and surely the growth in population, which can be expected in the next ten years.

Please heed the resolution and inform how best this may be taken forward.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Hurford', written in a cursive style.

Alan Hurford
Town Clerk

