**BRIDGE TO NOWHERE ASHCHURCH**

Tewkesbury Borough Council (TBC) has submitted its own planning application to build new road bridge over the railway just north of Ashchurch. The purpose of the bridge is to unlock land for 826 houses east of the railway, by diverting traffic into Northway. More details of the bridge application can be seen at [**tewkesbury.gov.uk**](http://www.swdevelopmentplan.org/?page_id=14555) (scroll down to the ‘Planning’ section and search for Planning Reference Number **20/00896/FUL**). You can see Bredon Parish Council’s response and other information at **bredonpc.org.uk/bridge**.

**THE PARISH COUNCIL BELIEVES THERE IS A STRONG CASE FOR REFUSING THE APPLICATION ON THE FOLLOWING GROUNDS:**

* **Lack of sequencing.** The scheme is a classic case of putting the cart before the horse. Capacity problems along the trunk road network have not been addressed. Funding for the link roads has not been secured. The new housing has not been allocated under the local plan. Unless and until these things are done, this will be a **‘bridge to nowhere.**’
* **Negative impacts on the highway network.** The Strategic Highway Network already suffers from severe lack of capacity around Ashchurch, with pinch points along the A46 and at M5 Junction 9. The bridge does not add capacity where it is needed. Traffic from the new housing will make existing congestion significantly worse, increasing delays for commuters, harming local businesses and reducing road safety.
* **Poor use of public funds.** The scheme will cost an estimated £8m for the first phase. A similar sum will be needed to complete the bridge. Far greater sums will be needed for the linking roads. At best, these funds will help to unlock a relatively small amount of housing. These funds would be much better spent on upgrades to the A46.
* **Harm to the Cotswolds AONB.** The proposed bridge is only 1.6 miles from the boundary of the AONB and clearly falls within its setting. It is overlooked by Bredon Hill, a well-known beauty spot and visitor destination within the AONB. The new bridge will be 11m high (the height of 3 double decker buses) and 74m wide. It will be an eyesore when seen from the AONB.

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

The Parish Council urges you to email or write to Planning Department, Tewkesbury Borough Council, Council Offices, Tewkesbury Road, Tewkesbury, GL20 5TT / **email: developmentapplications@tewkesbury.gov.uk**

**Responses should quote the Planning Reference Number ‘20/00896/FUL’**. Please feel free to copy the points above or to make points of your own. Every member of a household may respond if they wish. **Comments should reach Tewkesbury Borough Council before 10th November 2020** (although later comments may also be considered).