

Council Meeting 19th February 2025

Comments from the Public

The following comment has been submitted by Mr J. Coleman for the consideration of Council:

“Dear Ladies and gentlemen of the Council.

My name is Jonathan Coleman and as many of you will be aware, I am one of the team of volunteers at Revise BREP who have been attempting to hold WCC to account over the BREP project.

As of our last meeting I am happy to say the new leadership behind BREP has been more responsive and open to discussion and accordingly we have made some progress.

These include:

More frequent updates on what is going on with BREP.

Looking into artwork being produced to show how the areas will be restored.

Areas of concern or worry of residents looked into.

Guarantees that all trees removed and replaced will be replaced *in Bromsgrove along the A38*

Reducing the impact of the works as much as possible (such as getting numerous lane closures removed over the Christmas period.

Moving on from BREP however, it is time that we look and listen to the people of Bromsgrove who all know the only real solution to the transport issues in and around our town is a Western Bypass.

Worcestershire County Council has no money to perform a new study, but fortunately, Bromsgrove Council being fiscally responsible does have the reserves and the ability to commission a new study. And it needs to do so sooner rather than later.

The previous flawed study, as discovered when Bromsgrove Council commissioned a review, should have been re-done years ago. But instead has been used as a scapegoat to avoid investment in and around Bromsgrove in a way that would be meaningful. As an example, the A536 at Congleton is a project that shows how well planned infrastructure helps the area immensely. Resolving gridlocks and enabling traffic to flow freely through the area.

The current central government housing plans place potentially even larger demands on the Bromsgrove infrastructure, an infrastructure that is already bursting at the seams, no new supporting roads, and the existing plans designed to encourage more people through the town rather than around it.

Bromsgrove needs an infrastructure first plan. If developers want to build houses

here, then we need the infrastructure to be developed first, not as an after thought or in many cases not at all. We need new roads to be built. We need new doctors. We need new schools. We need new dentists.

A simple survey of the residents of Bromsgrove will show the overwhelming majority agree. We set up a simple 4 question survey 2 weeks ago and have already had over 3000 replies.

As such, I hope that the council makes the right choice to support and order a study into a new Western Bypass Project so the proper investment our towns needs can be secured.

Thank you for your time.”