

From: David Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2017 17:49
To: LocalPlan
Subject: Telford & Wrekin Local Plan & Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan - Newport Canal

Categories: [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

I have been a supporter for the restoration of the Newport Canal for over fifty years, and was a founder member and first Chairman of the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust. I am very pleased to see and support the modifications which the Plan Inspector Mr Michael Hetherington has put forward regarding the safeguarding of the alignment of the canal, particularly where it might be affected by new developments. When a member of the Wrekin Planning Committee in the early 1970's I put forward a resolution that the line of the canal should be protected, within the Council's area, with a view to its one day restoration for navigation. Either by accident or design that resolution has been adhered to by the Council up to now and should be reinforced. Even then it was realised that such a restoration would give a major tourism boost to the Town's economy and thus the idea has always been supported by the Town's Chamber of Commerce.

The apparent support for the eventual restoration of the canal in both the Newport Development Plan and the T & W Plan is welcomed but strangely there has been no mention so far in either plan as regards the absolutely vital question of the crossing of the A41. Possibly because it lies 200 metres into Staffordshire, but the value of the canal connection will be over 90% to the advantage of T & W', Shropshire, and Newport so the Stafford authorities will be little concerned. Hence some mention of the means to affect this crossing should be included in both plans. This as I see it at present could only be by a 106 agreement with potential housing developers on the adjacent land as put to the Trust in 2004, or during some major reconstruction of this heavily trafficked road, which is unlikely in the short term. Without this vital crossing needed to connect the Telford and in our case particularly Newport area to the national waterways network, much of the excellent work put in by the Trust's volunteers could become semi pointless. Furthermore the Trust's desperate efforts to raise money for the restoration of the Duke of Sutherland's wharf at Wappenshall and the transshipment warehouse designed by the canal engineer James Trubshaw in 1836 may result in it becoming a partial 'white elephant' if this connection is not made and landowners see no point in releasing their land for the restoration to navigation..

David Adams

Member Wrekin Council Planning Committee 1975-87 * 91-95
Town Mayor 1974-5, 1993-6,
Long term Member Newport Chamber of Commerce & past Chairman
1st Chairman of the Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust 2000-2004
Vice Chairman: Newport Regeneration Partnership.