

Responses to the Swaffham Town Council, Transport, Access and Environment Committee's comments on the Swaffham Network Improvement Strategy

Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV)

The impact of HGV travelling through the town has been considered and suggestions for diverting traffic onto other routes have been examined. Unfortunately there are no other feasible suitable routes onto which it is practicable to divert HGV.

Relief road

Significant work including origin and destination traffic surveys has been carried out to determine the case for a bypass or relief road for the town onto which HGV and other through traffic could be diverted. However, this concluded that it would be very difficult to make a case for a bypass with current and forecast traffic flows.

Notwithstanding local support, it is very difficult to obtain government funding for a relief road if the operational evidence and economic benefits are not strong. The WSP report identifies that traffic will grow in future and in particular as a consequence of planned housing growth. In view of this, the strategy action plan refers to working with Breckland District Council on their Local Plan and its updates to determine the scope for a new road in association with new Local Plan allocations. Feasibility work into route options is best carried out in conjunction with the Local Plan and the relationship with likely future housing allocations. This reflects the realistic current position.

We are satisfied with the robustness of the traffic count data as longer term count data has been used to verify the single day count data from July 2018.

Air Quality

The Swaffham Network Improvement Strategy was developed alongside Breckland District Councils' Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) and number of highway measures identified in the plan were investigated. Norfolk County Council continues to work with Breckland to assist the further development and delivery of the AQAP.

Breckland District Council should be able to provide Swaffham Town Council with the current data from the air quality monitoring installations located in the town. You could also ask them to monitor at other locations that you feel may be problematic.

Parking

County Councillor Ed Colman is in discussion with Breckland District Council about funding to develop further a scheme to provide better access to the Theatre Street car park. If successful, NCC officers can carry out further work to develop a scheme but its implementation will be dependent upon identifying a funding for construction.