



**Press announcement embargoed until 12.00 on 21 April 2021**

**Shropshire Climate Action Partnership. Objection to Shropshire Council Proposal for the Construction of a 'Shrewsbury North West Relief Road' (SNWRR)**

SCAP's Transport and Land & Biodiversity working groups have reviewed the planning application proposal for the SNWRR and the key conclusions are:

- 1 The proposal is not consistent with the need to reduce carbon emissions and will make it harder to achieve net zero carbon Shropshire by 2030
- 2 The proposal for 'offsetting' of the 70,000 tonnes carbon dioxide equivalent embodied in the construction phase will not work because there are not sufficient 'offsetting' opportunities beyond those required for food, housing and other more essential activities. The proposed highway would therefore contribute to a worsening of the climate and ecological crisis.
- 3 Substantial harm to biodiversity is likely to be caused by the construction of the proposed road.

**Planning Objection**

We note with concern that the proposal has not been fundamentally reviewed in the light of the current climate and ecological emergency (which Shropshire Council recognised in May 2019) and the latest Government policies developed since then, promoting active travel and reduction in car use.

The proposal is not aligned to net zero carbon Shropshire 2030 and will impede progress towards this essential goal.

We therefore object to the planning application as presented. We call on Shropshire Council to withdraw the application to allow time for a fundamental review of transport policies and update to highways plans. The objective of such a review must be to align transport to the over-riding need to respond to the climate and ecological emergency with a strategy aligned to net zero carbon Shropshire 2030.

Approved by Shropshire Climate Action Partnership for publication on 21 April 2021. The planning objection is made on behalf of SCAP and does not claim to reflect the views of all our partners, members and supporters.

Note to editors: Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP) is a partnership of, by and for Shropshire, established in August 2020. It was set up as a partnership of, by and for Shropshire county, with the objective to create and help to implement a practical Zero Carbon Shropshire Plan (ZCSP), working to achieve net zero carbon Shropshire by the end of 2030. Further information: [www.ZeroCarbonShropshire.org](http://www.ZeroCarbonShropshire.org) or contact:

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