

Shaw Residents' Association

Serving the Residents of Peatmoor, Sparcells, Nine Elms, Middleleaze, Shaw, Ramleaze, the Prinnels, Eastleaze and Westlea (West)

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Shaw Residents Association Response to the Swindon Borough Local Plan 2026

Transport, particularly the road infrastructure, is the one area of concern the SRA would like to make with reference to this plan. West Swindon's roads are already over capacity and the development of Tadpole Farm and the un-planned and un-wanted Ridgeway Farm will bring our roads to breaking point.

Sustainable growth must also include a transport infrastructure that is fit for purpose. Without it, two pillars of sustainability, productivity and quality of life, cannot be realised since poor travel infrastructure leads to increased travel time for commuters and commercial transport leading to reduced productivity and a lower quality of life. It also leads to industrial area ghettos as we see at several industrial estates along the Mead Way corridor and Cheney Manor.

We are pleased to see mention of the Thamesdown Drive to B&Q link road within the proposals. However, the single very short paragraph (4.195) is woefully inadequate to demonstrate any real commitment from SBC to positively move this forward.

- What is the detailed plan to get the funding? This needs a strategy all of itself without which it will be forever a pipe dream. Ad-hoc lobbying by Swindon MP's is not a strategic plan
- What is the real cost to build the road? There are too many voices stating the £100m is a vastly over estimated price. What are the plans to re-evaluate the route and to get a real cost? Without such an analysis, how can government lobbying work?
- What are the real benefits of building it? For example, the regeneration of Cheney Manor industrial area and Mead Way corridor industrial sites, aside from the obvious traffic reductions through West Swindon. Who is chartered with generating such a document and how will it be used alongside the plan to get the funding?
- What won't be done if this road is not built? Right now, it seems the 2026 proposal goes ahead with or without this road. Such 'planning' will not help get funding from government. SBC must be making a stand within this proposal – more homes can be built, but government MUST provide the funding to enable a sustainable travel infrastructure as an integral part of the plan, not a bolt on after thought

There are other road improvements that require working with WCC. Traffic coming from Royal Wootton Bassett tends to avoid the A3102 and M4 J16 due the inadequacy of the road and junction. It chooses instead to enter Swindon via Hook Street and West Swindon. What are the plans to work with WCC to get the A3102 duelled and J16 fixed? They must be part of SBC and WCC proposals and the two authorities must speak as one on this to government.

In conclusion, without detailed road improvement strategies being included as part of the proposal, the SRA cannot be supportive of the document.

Yours Sincerely on behalf of the SRA

Kevin Fisher

SRA Chair

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