

STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD – 15 June 2016

APPLICATION NO: 15/4480C

PROPOSAL: The proposed Congleton Link Road - a 5.7 km single carriageway link road between the A534 Sandbach Road and the A536 Macclesfield Road.

ADDRESS: CONGLETON LINK ROAD, CONGLETON

APPLICANT: Andrew Ross, Cheshire East Council

REPRESENTATIONS:

Further correspondence has been received from two local residents raising the following issues:

- One resident feels that they have not had the opportunity of discussing the proposals with Council officers especially with regards to the “latest changes” in the Back Lane area.
- Whilst supporting the principle of the Link Road, the other resident feels that the application should have been more widely consulted upon outside the Congleton area as it affects a wider area, and is of regional importance. In addition it is considered the road should be extended south to the A34, bypassing Eaton and designing out the dangerous and substantial bend in the A534 at the western end of the link road.

APPRAISAL:

Scheme changes and consultation:

As the report clearly sets out (See page 14 of the officers report), there have been no significant changes (with the exception of environmental mitigation) to the scheme since the planning application was submitted at the end of September 2015, and certainly no changes to the road line of the links to it. It is understood the resident in question has met with members of the design team to discuss the proposals, and a response from the agent has been posted on the website.

With regards to wider consultation, the focus of the consultation has been on the Congleton area, and outlying settlements, as these are the areas most affected by the proposals. However as the applicant’s agent set out in a full response to the resident on the 28 April (which is also on the website):

“Consultation limited to Congleton postcodes.

Whilst the focus for public consultation has been in the immediate area of the link road the Council has taken steps to capture a broader view of the proposals. In order to capture views from surrounding towns, displays

containing the exhibition material and questionnaires were setup in the following locations:

- Westfields, Sandbach;
- Town Hall, Macclesfield; and
- Delamere House, Crewe.

These were publicised by press releases at the time. The consultation material was also available on line. Stakeholder groups were consulted from a range of backgrounds. A total of 187 questionnaires (14.6% of the total response) were submitted from areas outside the CW12 boundary.

It is also worth noting that the principle of the link road has been established in the Council's Local Plan. This has been subject to extensive, borough-wide consultation."

Other scheme options were considered (see page 15 of the officers report), but were discounted for a number of reasons following consultation at the time.

RECOMMENDATION:

There are no changes to the recommendation.