

Wiltshire Council

Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Clare Cape, Chippenham Pewsham

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications

Question 20-25

Local people have been poorly informed about this HIF allocation and the associated plans; local Councillors have been excluded from the work being done by Wiltshire Council; and the early negotiation with Chippenham Town Council. What will be done now, **before** the expected consultation, to put this right and to inform and engage people, proactively and effectively, in preparing for the consultation? Many local people are understandably against having a development the size of Calne tacked onto the edge of Chippenham and cannot see how this proposal aligns in any way with Wiltshire Council's declaration of a climate emergency and the ecological problems we face.

Response:

The HIF process has been all about securing the opportunity to draw on Government funding for infrastructure should development come forward. As set out in the recent Cabinet report consultation will now take place on the proposed route for a distributor road. It will begin early in 2021.

Future growth of Chippenham will be considered as part of the Local Plan process, which will also be subject to consultation early in the new year.