

Staplegrave Parish Council

Dear Ursula Fay

25th January 2020

Most of the thousands of houses being built in the east of Taunton, together with the 1628 houses at Staplegrave and the thousands in the south west of the town, will be accompanied by two vehicles each. These will be needed by the purchasers to find and get to a source of employment, which is not widely available close by. To do so they will wish to avoid the existing congestion and find a way round the edge of the town.

The need for such a circular route is already established as shown by the many vehicles using Corkscrew Lane/Manor Road and Silk Mills Lane and congestion is obviously going to get very much worse if such a proper route is not provided. The Northern Link Road will replace the use of the above country lane through Staplegrave and it must have a sensible cross roads junction with Silk Mills. It follows that the Policy TAU 2 requirement for the link road to have the ability to extend eastwards must also be brought very much to the fore with the connection to Cheddon Road and on to extend, through the protected routes included in the developments, to the existing elements of the original Northern Outer Distributor Road at Nerrols Drive and the Crown roundabout. The Monkton Heathfield Western Relief Road will continue the route to the Motorway and the employment area of Nexus 25.

This circular road round Taunton will establish a positive and safe way rather than leave the motorist endeavouring to find the best way through estate roads, that are often lined with parked cars, which is the current situation.

The extension of the Link road to Cheddon Road would also satisfy a further requirement of TAU 2 in providing public access to the enhanced parkland south of the former Pyrland Hall, with many seeing this on a regular basis for the first time. Houses would not be built on this stretch of the road.

Importantly, it would also enable Staplegrave to be included in the key proposal of connecting the garden communities and Nexus 25 with high-quality bus services, the use of which, of course, would leave many cars at home.

This ring road round Taunton is obviously essential and funding, no doubt from a number of sources, must be found to bring this forward at the earliest opportunity to produce a more satisfactory outcome to the establishment of Our Garden Town.