

Sent by email

Members' Desk

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Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 01 October 2020

Dear Martin,

Many thanks for your letter of 11th September.

All the assertions you make about the possibility of a relief road around Leeds and Langley are correct. The scheme was one of our priorities until the Government of the day effectively cancelled the village bypass programme in the 1990's. Even though the recent work we have done to support the Local Plan process shows it would have some local benefit, it is not a scheme that we are currently promoting as a standalone project, nor can I see that changing in the near future.

Notwithstanding this, if housing growth in the locality were to be a genuine and realistic proposition from your perspective as Local Planning Authority we would be prepared to work with the developers to delivering the necessary highway infrastructure to serve it. I must say that if the road were to be completely development funded it would be delivered much more quickly. However, KCC as the Highway Authority would be willing to submit a bid for Government funding as and when it becomes available for part of the scheme if it proved necessary. We would also be prepared to promote the necessary Compulsory Purchase and Side Road Orders if the need arose. In the meantime we are happy to work with the relevant developers provided that they are prepared to collaborate with each other and ourselves to identify the cumulative impact and mitigation of their proposals and apportion contributions appropriately. I suspect a consortium would be necessary together with an equalisation agreement or some such similar arrangement.

Thank you for your invitation to the Maidstone Strategic Infrastructure Working Group. My approach to all the County's Local Plans is that they are matter best shaped by the Local Members. KCC would not want to hamper your

ability to deal with these matters quickly, so I will decline the invitation, but wish you all the best in progressing your Plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Payne', followed by a small dash.

Michael Payne
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport