



SELAG Supporters' autumn 2019 Newsletter

Growing Opposition to the Expressway and its associated 40,000 houses

In the summer three Leicestershire MPs publicly took issue with the Strategic Growth Plan. In a letter to the advisory group of Leicestershire councillors overseeing the progress of the Plan to which all the district and the county councils had signed up Ed Argar, Alberto Costa and Neil O'Brien MPs for Charnwood, South Leicestershire and Harborough wrote that they could not support the Plan as it stands and that they wanted alternatives to be explored. Their letter ends "We are not convinced that the proposed Expressway and accompanying housing development is the right approach to the future transport or housing needs of our county and we do not support it in its current form."

Also now Harborough's district council leader, Phil King, has been joined by Stuart Bray, the new leader of Hinckley and Bosworth council in questioning the SGP - further fracturing the once united front of all Leicestershire councils.

Midlands Connect to report in November

The body campaigning for the upgrading of the A46 from Cirencester to Grimsby is due to issue its detailed report into the Improvements it is seeking in November. We understand that it will examine closely the case for staying with the current route of the A46 through the county by improving its junctions and carriageways as an alternative to the radical 20 plus mile expressway intrusion into east Leicestershire. We await with interest this report noting that that Midlands Connect's chief concern is for through roads whereas the promoters of the SGP see the new road as a means of unlocking building land for 40,000 houses.

Lobbying Council leaders and MPs

SELAG is keeping in regular touch with council leaders and MPs and is seeking a second meeting before the end of the year with the chief architects of the SGP, Peter Soulsby, leader of the City Council and Nick Rushton leader of the County Council. A meeting earlier this year led to a robust exchange of views but also a recognition that further meetings would be of value.

Incorporation of SELAG

SELAG's concern for the countryside of east Leicestershire means that it needs to attract support from a large number of villages along the likely route of the Expressway. The SELAG committee has therefore thought it prudent to change the status of the action group from one more suited to the concerns of a single village to an incorporated private company better able to handle the business of a major lobby group. The purpose of SELAG to protect the rural environment of south and east Leicestershire and to question the need for the A46 Expressway will, of course, remain the same.

Owen Bentley
SELAG Supporters' Secretary