

# Bias Bypass?

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The Hereford Transport Package (HTP) has created a division between the citizens and council of Herefordshire. A consultation about the project in early 2018 resulted in 59% of responders supporting the scheme, leaving us with the question: what do the other 41% think?

Kelly Pember, a local resident, stated that she feels as though she doesn't know enough information regarding the project, "I want to know how we can be sure that lorries will use the bypass and not go through town."

The bypass's main aim is to "address the traffic problems" and "help Hereford city grow", according to Councillor Phillip Price, Cabinet Member – Infrastructure. When asked what the main objections concerning the HTP are, Councillor Price responded, "Those who do not support the scheme have a variety of reasons or objections. Some do not think it will solve the city's transport problems. People thought that the new homes in the city would cause congestion, even with a bypass. They also said that we should solve the city's problems in other ways as they did not like the environmental impact of the bypass."

Councillor Price also stated that he continues to support wholeheartedly the bypass and all the proposed transport improvements included in the HTP. "The bypass will help Hereford city grow. It will help us to deliver new homes and jobs and it will help us to build a new university in Hereford." He says that these things cannot happen in Hereford without the bypass, and the city will decline if young people cannot get good jobs in Hereford or have new homes to buy.

However, some members of the public are still undecided as to what their opinions are on the bypass. "I think we do need a bypass as it will help divert the build-up of traffic," says a local resident, "but I don't agree with people's homes being knocked down or destroyed."

More information in regards to the HTP can be found on the Herefordshire Council's website and the Hereford public library.