

The silent majority?

The supporters of the road regularly claim that they speak for the 'silent majority' but they are a very silent group! The huge level of grass roots opposition to the NWRR stems from the very significant environmental damage that it would cause (outlined above) together with the enormous financial strain the project has already and will increasingly place on the council which is already teetering on the verge of bankruptcy. Shropshire people outside Shrewsbury want to see investment in the existing roads they use on a daily basis, not a huge splurge on this vanity project.

The council continually implies that the opposition is limited to '*a small, very vocal minority*' or as we have recently been described by the council leader - an '*increasingly professional campaign operating locally but supported by national and even international interest groups*'. While we accept the compliment about the professional nature of our campaign (with pro-bono inputs from local specialists in ecology, air quality, water, transport etc), the available statistics suggest that the opposition to the NWRR is deep and widespread:

- In the 2021 Local Elections 88% of the vote for councillors on Shrewsbury Town Council went to parties that explicitly rejected the NWRR as a solution to the town's congestion issues. The Conservative Leader who was had personally driven forward the NWRR project [lost his seat](#) to a candidate who strongly opposed the road. Shrewsbury Town Council has consistently opposed the NWRR.
- In the 2024 national election Shrewsbury voted for change with 77.5% of the vote going to parties that explicitly rejected the NWRR as a solution to the town's congestion issues. The incumbent, long-standing Conservative MP who had constantly promoted the NWRR project lost to a candidate who was a vocal opponent of the scheme as a local councillor.
- Over 5,000 people submitted objections to the planning application for the NWRR (overwhelmingly from people in Shrewsbury and Shropshire) compared to 220 supporters
- Over 20 local and national NGOs have submitted objections to the NWRR
- Over 100,000 people signed a petition to save the 550 year old Darwin Oak that would be cut down to make way for the road

Shrewsbury Town Council has objected to the NWRR and recently agreed a motion calling for Shropshire Council to commission an independent inquiry into the poor management of the project to date.