

Dear Parish Council,

I know you have been doing a lot to push Urban & Civic on their traffic plans for Growing Baldock. Hopefully as residents you've seen the work I've separately been doing to get Urban & Civic to understand that the relationship between the villages and Baldock is not just a 'nice to have' but essential. Tonight I've submitted a report to Urban & Civic in response to their final consultation (following a verbal briefing last week) drawing together the results of the survey and I wanted to share this with you in confidence ahead of publication c26 August.

I have drafted a rough press release to accompany the report – if the Parish Council would like to provide a quote would you let me know? I've also been speaking to Chris Hinchliff and hope to include a quote from him (this is very much not a partisan affair).

Urban & Civic are engaging which is good and they have promised to do more, but we are now perilously close to the planning application going in and I do fear that it will be a tick box exercise. Hopefully together we can ensure that it is not.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the findings, I'm back from leave next Wednesday and can pick up emails then.

Best wishes

XXXXXX

APC'S SUGGESTED QUOTATION FOR THE PRESS RELEASE:

Dear XXXXX.

Thank you and your colleagues for taking the initiative to carry out the research project to capture the impact from the proposed Baldock expansion, and preparing the subsequent report. The Ashwell Parish Council have also been publicising this issue, and we'd be happy to provide the following quotation for the Press Release:

"Ashwell Parish Council support the findings of the research carried out by XXXXXXXX and North Herts Councillor XXXX into the impact of the traffic management changes being proposed by Urban & Civic.

We would also like to draw NHC's attention to the proposed North Road traffic management plans. The proposed pedestrianisation / vehicle closure of the Bygrave Road / Ashwell Road is likely to have a significant additional impact on Ashwell and Bygrave's resident access to Baldock facilities including access to Baldock Station.

There is also the risk of adding more demand for Ashwell Station access & parking, especially during the several years of the construction phase of the Baldock expansion.

Further research by Urban & Civic or NHC is required to scientifically assess these potential impacts on community access to Baldock and the risk of negative impact on the Baldock facilities and Ashwell village."