

# THE RT HON. ANDREA LEADSOM MP



## HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Rt Hon. Chris Grayling MP  
Secretary of State for Transport  
Department for Transport  
Great Minster House  
33 Horseferry Road  
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17<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Ref: AL/TG/1906

*Dear Chris*

You will be aware of the work we are doing locally to secure the early delivery of the Towcester Relief Road, and our shared aim that the road be fully open by the end of 2021 at the latest. I had organized a public meeting last Friday (14<sup>th</sup> June) for over 150 local residents in Towcester Town Hall so that they could hear a progress report and ask questions of the various people involved in bringing the road forward. I was very pleased that the County Council, the District Council and the developer Persimmon all attended as agreed, and we had a very productive meeting.

However, most regretfully, at the eleventh hour Highways England decided to disinvite themselves from the meeting, citing concerns about various works that remain outstanding before construction can commence. The level of outrage amongst my constituents toward Highways England at the public meeting was palpable, and their decision was exceptionally disappointing given there were a number of technical questions that only they could answer. I had also had it confirmed in writing that a representative from Highways England would be there.

Whilst I recognise the concerns by Highways England about the scale of the work to be achieved prior to March 2020, when commencement on the relief road must begin to secure the full funding of £3.897m available through the Road Investment Strategy, I am reassured by Persimmon that they as the developer are fully committed to building the road by the end of 2021. I am awaiting a letter of intent from Simon McDonald, Regional Managing Director for Persimmon, that is setting out that they intend to bridge the existing gap in funding for the early delivery themselves, and that significant construction work on the road will have started by the March 2020 deadline.

I continue to meet monthly with Persimmon and the County Council to get this road built for my constituents, and I look forward to Highways England attending the next public meeting soon.

With best wishes,

*Andrea*

The Rt Hon. Andrea Leadsom MP  
Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

Cc: Jim O'Sullivan, Chief Executive, Highways England  
Simon McDonald, Regional Managing Director, Persimmon Homes  
Cllr Ian Morris & Cllr Lizzy Bowen, Northamptonshire County Council  
Cllr Roger Clarke, South Northamptonshire District Council

*Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire*