



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Lee Waters MS
Deputy Minister for Climate Change
Welsh Government
5th Floor, Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

8th October 2021

Dear Lee,

RE: Tree planting and noise abatement measures along the A483, Wrexham

I have previously written to you about the A483 road in Wrexham and the concerns that residents in Garden Village have had with increasing noise and visual pollution following the removal of roadside trees. Subsequent to our correspondence, I have been contacted by other constituents with similar concerns. In particular, residents from Pandy and the northern end of Garden Village near to junction 6 of the A483 have raised similar concerns with me.

Therefore, first and foremost, given the extent to which this is clearly affecting large communities in Wrexham, **I would like to reiterate my support for further noise abatement measures beyond tree planting.**

Furthermore, it has become clear that the Welsh Government had provided assurances that tree planting would go ahead in 2020, following the removal of trees. However, to date, constituents do not believe any planting has taken place.

One constituent, has explained that she had been in contact with the Welsh Government Minister responsible, at the time Ken Skates MS, about the issue through the Wrexham Senedd Member, Lesley Griffiths MS. On 19th March 2020, the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales wrote to assure the constituent that shrub planting would be taking place. By May 2020, when no planting had gone ahead, the constituent was assured again that the planting was still planned but had been delayed. Nonetheless, despite these assurances, no tree planting took place in 2020, which has resulted in no respite from the road noise.

Similarly, in correspondence to me earlier this year (19 March 2021), Mr Skates stated that replacement tree and hedgerow planting was “planned to be carried out...this spring”. However, this has not happened.

In July of this year, you also assured me that action was being taken to begin the process of planting trees, starting with your Agent making contact with residents of Garden Village. However, despite these assurances, residents in Garden Village have yet to be contacted about any future tree planting.

As such, I would be interested to have further information on the following points:

- Has planting taken place, as promised, along the A483 in 2020 and 2021?
- What are the current plans are for tree planting along the A483 going forward?
- Your letter of 11 June 2021 noted that the A483 between junctions 5 and 6 “has been identified as priority area” for noise mitigation measures, can you provide further clarity on when further information on future noise abatement schemes might be made available?

Thank you again for your assistance on this matter and I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Sarah Atherton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sarah Atherton MP
Member of Parliament for Wrexham

CC: Lesley Griffiths, Member of the Senedd for Wrexham, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd