

# An Alternative vision for the Southgates

## Four reasons why the Borough Council's scheme for the Southgates should be re-thought



*Alternative impression of how the new entrance to the town could look as visualised by Matthew Rice*

## 1) It destroys Lynn's unique sense of arrival

The whole of the Hardwick area is now **devoid of any character**. Drivers approach the town through a morass of anonymous sheds and garages that could be anywhere. No wonder so many people give it a wide berth. But arriving through the Southgates drivers leave the commercial sprawl and enter a perfect Georgian street. It is like raising the curtain on a play. **Arriving through the medieval gate sets the tone for the town**, sets it apart from other faceless places.



*Proposed new highway into Lynn*

The Borough Council wants to extend the brutal road scheme into the historic core and bypass the town gate. Every other historic town in England which has such an historic entrance is proud of it, and almost all of them use it.

## 2) It encourages bad traffic behaviours

The Hardwick roads are a race-track. People **exceed the speed limits** and the four-lane approaches encourage people to drive fast and aggressively. Why would the Borough Council want to extend the extra-urban roads into the historic town, encouraging **drivers to go too fast**?

Entering through the Southgates is a chance to slow the traffic down and encourage drivers to respect the pedestrian environment. The Southgates should be an opportunity to improve the urban environment for residents of London Road and the many people who walk there – not speed the traffic up.

## 3) Does not relieve congestion

Traffic flows down London Road are regulated by the stretch of two-way traffic outside the London Porterhouse. This will always be the case. **Widening the roads to the south of this narrow spot only increases the volume of queuing traffic in the historic town and cannot speed it up**. Why the Borough Council wants to move the queue into the historic town by

people's houses and where people walk is a mystery. The queues are better kept outside the gate on the extra-urban road system.

#### **4) Destroys the historic setting of the Southgates**

The Southgates are historically part of the town's defences and Southgates Park to their east still contains part of the town ditch and civil war defences. The late Victorian walls and 1930s park are a well-designed and important setting for the gate and a **treasured local amenity** for local residents who do not have access to green space nearby.

Why the Borough Council thinks that destroying the park by constructing a three-lane highway through on a concrete flyover is an improvement is mystifying. **The park should be restored, extended and improved** both for local residents and as a setting for the gate and not tarmacked over.

#### ***How to Spend the Council's Millions***

The Borough Council has the opportunity to bid for some serious funding for the town. This is exciting and it is important that it gets it. But the money must be spent wisely. Last time such large sums were spent in the 1960s and 70s we got the Vancouver Centre and Hillington Square, surface carparks and the destruction of hundreds of historic buildings. Nobody now thinks this was a good result.

The Borough Council have rightly bought up the land to the south of the gates including Heart of Cars. **This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to transform the entrance of the town enhancing its image and attracting business and tourists. Instead of a brutal new road the Southgates area should be re-landscaped and planted to create an amenity for local people and a beautiful and elegant entrance to the town.**

**The town entrance needs to be re-designed by a top landscape architect not by traffic engineers. Traffic engineers will give us carriageways, lights, signs, railings, white lines, yellow boxes and a lack of imagination. We need a nationally respected designer who can re-landscape the entrance to the town focussing on the excitement of entering by the historic gateway.**

***If you agree with this please ask your council colleagues and the Town Deal board members to re-think their designs.***

# SAVE KING'S LYNN'S HISTORIC TOWN GATEWAY

Sandwich



Alnwick



Ludlow



Coventry



York



Canterbury



Langport



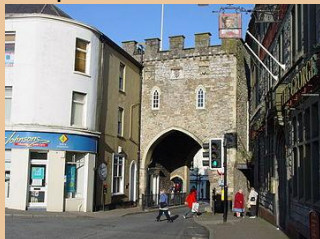
Bridgnorth



Rye



Chepstow



Beverley



Caernarfon



OTHER TOWNS KEEP ROADS THROUGH THEIR HISTORIC GATES