

## **UPTON NEWS**

**Sir Michael Spicer  
Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire  
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA**

As this is my first contribution to the Upton News since Christmas, may I take this opportunity warmly to congratulate all those involved with making the town look so colourful and well decorated over the holiday season. Once again the Christmas windows competition was a delightful success and the Tourism and Trade Association is to be congratulated on its efforts to decorate the town with Christmas trees which were most attractive.

Excellent progress has been made with the repair of the viaduct since my last article for the Upton News. This has in no small measure been assisted by the favourable weather conditions during the winter period which have so far allowed the contractors to continue with little hindrance. The viaduct is really beginning to take shape with the first sections of concrete now in place. Completion of this structure will come as a great relief to the town; the County Council were certainly correct to press ahead with the works. I remain concerned about the funding of the project given the disappointing news that the government have rejected the County Council's application for transport supplementary credit. This is bad news for motorists in Worcestershire. The £1.6million shortfall on credit for the viaduct will mean that the money will have to be found elsewhere from an already truncated roads maintenance budget. Road conditions, already of great concern to many residents, may further deteriorate. I will continue to press the government to ensure adequate funding for our existing road network.

I was interested to read of the concern amongst members of the Town Council regarding speeding traffic down Tunnel Hill and into Upton. I very much agree that action must be taken to ensure the safety of residents and I have been on record in the recent past expressing concern about the volume and speed of traffic in Old Street. I am not convinced that the introduction of traffic calming is necessarily the answer given the visual impact this would have on the town centre. Suggestions such as lowering the speed limit on the A4104 into Old Street are worthy of further consideration.

As your Member of Parliament I am always pleased to discuss local or national issues of concern. I can best be contacted by writing to me at the above address or by attending one of my monthly interview sessions at the Memorial Hall in Upton. Details can be found in the local press, by calling 01684 573469 or logging on to my website [www.sirmichaelspicer.net](http://www.sirmichaelspicer.net)

**Sir Michael Spicer MP  
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