

Louise Scarr

30th September 2019

Minister for Economy and Transport
Ken States

Orders Branch
Transport
Department for Economic Infrastructure
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Your ref: qA1316455

Dear Sir / Madam

Letter of support for bypassing our lovely village, Llanddewi Velfrey.

I am writing this letter to support the proposed plan to provide a bypass to divert the heavy traffic load away from the centre of our residential village.

I would like to highlight that since I moved to Llanddewi Velfrey in 1997. There have been many proposals to provide a bypass but no minister has yet delivered their plan. Further, although you have provided a representative in our Community Village hall, for the past few weeks you have failed to make residents of the village aware that a letter of support is essential from each of them. However, you have at this late stage, after the alleged cut off for letters of support advised a community councillor that your department have received 23 letters against and only 4 letters for.

We find this information very distressing and hard to believe, considering the population of the village and the amount of residents we know who desperately want and need the bypass. The officer also advised the community councillor that because of the numbers for and against it is likely that there will now be a Public Enquiry, which will once again conveniently kick the plans into the long grass.

If this is correct, why haven't you conveyed the importance of the supporting letters long before the deadline?

Having canvassed our neighbours, we have established that the vast majority were not aware that it is essential to communicate their support to your department to prevent a public enquiry. All of our neighbours aside from the minority landowners are in support of the bypass. In the event that your department fail again and in the process waste extortionate amounts of taxpayer's money, we will seek legal advice regarding a judicial review or other legal remedy.

I would anticipate most of the objections to the proposals would have been raised by local landowners who have a financial or cantankerous interests in keeping the village community divided by an extremely busy road which our schoolchildren have to cross every day. Any resident with a "human" interest in the village would not object to the proposal unless the objection is about the route but again their objections are likely to be motivated by financial self-interest.

It is important that you are aware that many residents have written letters of support in the previous years when the residents of the village were advised that the bypass was actually going to be built and were not aware that they needed to write again. If your lack of pertinent information regarding the importance of a letter of support is intended to give your department another excuse not to deliver, may we respectfully ask you to put us out of our misery and just tell us it is not going to happen which will keep the wealthy landowners happy.

I am surprised that the reasons for the bypass need to be highlighted, as it is obvious to anyone that drives, walks or cycles through the village.

Our community is divided by the incredibly busy A40 road which leads to all the beautiful tourist attractions in Pembrokeshire, the Ports of Fishguard and Milford Haven and ever growing oil refinery's. Since 1997 there has been a significant increase in the volume of traffic, the speed at which the vehicles travel together with a sad decline in the attitude of the motorist, which reflects the general decline in behaviour of the public. We live right on the A40 but have not been spoken to about the plans or how it effects our day-to-day lives, nor have the other residents who live very close to the A40.

Our 12-year-old son and 10 year old daughter are required to cross the road to catch their school buses along with at least 10 other children, they risk their lives each time they do so as generally the motorist do not travel at 40 miles an hour through the village. Unbelievably there is still no crossing to provide a warning of pedestrians trying to get to the other side of the road. After several "near misses" we now transport our children to and from school along with many other parents in the village who share our view that it is simply too big a risk to take. This not only causes unnecessary travelling which is harmful to the environment, it also prevents our children taking part in a normal activity of travelling to school on the bus with the other children from our wider community and building friendships with them. We imagine that your department will wonder why you do not receive more request for help Llanddewi Velfrey residents; it is because we have lost faith in your promises over the years to build a much needed bypass. For at least 20 years but possibly as far back as 1977 your department have proposed a bypass and not delivered!

The children and other residents who live our side of the A40 cannot safely get to the Community Hall or Play Area on foot or on their bikes. The only safe way to get across the A40 ironically is by car. Many elderly residents who would benefit from the short walk to the Community Hall travel to the coffee mornings and other activities by car because they cannot mobilise fast enough to risk crossing the road on foot due to the speed of the traffic. Further the time it often takes to pull out onto the A40 is considerable due to the constant flow of traffic which in itself poses a significant risk.

In addition to the above the village residents take huge safety risks to walk, cycle or use their mobility to get to the village post office, shop, café and petrol station as once again it is safer to travel by car than risk being a pedestrian hit by a car, lorry or other vehicle. Many elderly residents can no longer drive and therefore are unable to continue to use the shop which has reduced their ability to live

independently and social interaction with other residents within our community leading to increased isolation.

If you want to really understand the impact of the A40 speak to the people it really effects not the people that provide eloquent letters to reject the proposal for fear that it will reduce the value of their capital assets.

Yours sincerely

Louise Scarr