

My name is Keith Thomas, I am the current chairman of Llanddewi Velfrey Community Council and wish to speak on behalf of myself, my fellow community councillors and many residents of this village in support of the bypass being discussed here today.

1980 saw the first publication regarding improvements to the A40 in a document entitled The Pengawse Hill Llanddewi Velfrey Diversion, a Welsh Office Proposal in which the A40 is described as generally of low standard. I have the document here with me today. So, 40 years on, there is four-zero, it is still at the discussion stage.

July 1995, 15 years later a document prepared by the Countryside Council for Wales entitled 'A Traffic Calming Report for the Village' list the problems as;

1. The volume of vehicles, particularly heavy ones
2. The speed at which they travel

I have that document also with me today.

We then move on to 2008 where on page 7 of the Western Telegraph on 26th November, the headline reads 'Walking the thin line between Life and Death' referring to the narrow pavements and the risk to pedestrians from the heavy, fast moving traffic.

A Welsh Office spokesman states in the article the pavements could be widened when plans for a bypass were finally announced.

2011 Western Telegraph March 23rd. Page 17 the then Deputy First Minister Ieuan Wyn Jones on opening the bypass at Robeston Wathen went on to announce the extension of the scheme between Penblewin and Llanddewi Velfrey. Of Robeston Wathen he said 'the scheme liberated the centre of the village from the effects of the heavy trunk road traffic and would improve the safety and quality of life for the local community', which is EXACTLY what the residents of THIS village have been asking for many years so we too can safely access our village shop and post office and functions at the village hall. We have senior school children not allowed by their parents to use the school bus supplied on any journey that involves them crossing the A40, they take their life in their hands. For residents of the village, a bypass is not about cutting journey times and Pembrokeshire needs the tourists to come and good access to our ports, for its prosperity, it's about OUR safety, well-being and quality of life.

In the press on January 17th, 2018, the Welsh Government stated the collapse of Carillion would not impact on the planned bypass. Yet here we are today not knowing if we will get it this time.