

I strongly object to the proposed A57 Link Roads on environmental and health grounds, both for the Peak District in general and in Glossop, where I live. Studies have predicted that the bypass will increase traffic through Glossop, which will be hugely detrimental to the health of residents and the local environment. As a resident of High Street West, I already face significant disruption from traffic, with constant noise from traffic and air pollution so intense that it is visible on cars and houses along the street. There is traffic queuing every day during morning and evening rush hours, making it particularly unpleasant to walk alongside traffic. The lungs of young people and children are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, and many have to walk along the main road on their way to school. Since we should be encouraging young people to walk to school as much as possible, we have a responsibility to make it safe for them, rather than putting them at risk of developing chronic illnesses such as asthma.

Instead of building new roads that will increase the traffic issues in the region, there should be a focus on improving public transport (not cancelling local bus services like X57), as well as a lorry ban in the Peak District National Park to try to stop further degradation of the moors. The Dark Peak is already the most degraded upland environment in Europe, and since the High Peak Borough Council has declared a Climate Emergency, we should be doing everything we can to prevent further degradation. Our peatlands are the biggest store of carbon in the UK, but this also means they represent a huge potential source of carbon to be released to the atmosphere if they continue to be degraded.