

**From:** [Joe Neary](#)  
**To:** [A417 Missing Link at Air Balloon](#)  
**Subject:** Representation on A417 Missing Link  
**Date:** 02 October 2021 14:12:08

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## REGISTRATION OF INTEREST

Dear Planning Inspectorate

We the undersigned would like to register an interest in the A417 Missing Link Application.

We understand that the closing date was 3 September. However, we believe that late applications have been accepted.

As local residents on the old London Road in the immediate vicinity of the A417, we want to support the Highways England recommendation of Option 30 for the following reasons:

1. **Safety:** Option 30 provides a consistent traffic speed without excessive road curvature. This option effectively addresses the road conditions that have led to accidents and fatalities on the current A417 in recent years. Option 12 has steeper road curvature requiring speed restriction which may or may not be observed, retaining a risk of congestion and, we believe, avoidable accidents.
2. **Rat-running:** The current road is frequently congested, resulting in heavy traffic using alternative routes through Birdlip and Brimpsfield villages, endangering local residents, schoolchildren, and causing traffic congestion through the village. Option 12 leaves a risk of congestion due to steep road curvature and reduced speed limits, and substantially unaltered access points, thus retaining a risk of rat-running. Option 30 removes the risk of rat-running by its more direct trajectory, unaltered national speed limit throughout, and resited access points.
3. **Road Noise:** Faster moving traffic on a dual carriageway will generate more road noise than at present. Option 12 will therefore leave Birdlip village with greater noise exposure than at present. While any rerouting will affect local communities differently, we believe that Option 30 will provide the best noise abatement overall, especially when the additional noise abatement measures proposed by Highways England are effected.
4. **Air Quality:** Any continuing traffic congestion on the A417 will impact on the air quality in local communities. We believe that this will be best mitigated in Option 30, by ensuring the smooth flow of traffic, in accordance with our Point 1 above.

We believe that the consultation process followed by Highways England was comprehensive and fair. For all of these reasons, we fully support the conclusions reached by Highways England in their consultation report dated May 2021.

Joe Neary [REDACTED]  
Felicity Matthews [REDACTED]

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