

Thank you for the opportunity to make an additional submission in relation to the A417 Missing Link - please keep me fully updated.

Some of the objections that have been put forward against the adoption of Option 30, including those submitted with the involvement of professional advisers, relate to specific individual properties, and/or parcels of land, and can be dealt with by continuing negotiations with Highways England or, if appropriate, by the payment of financial compensation. A large number of the objections which emanate specifically from Cowley, however, are of a more general nature including many based largely on opinion, not fact, in order to justify Option 12 and, thereby, shift the route away from Cowley and push it much closer to Birdlip.

Facts which support why Option 30 should remain the preferred route include, amongst others:

- Highways England revised downwards the build costs for Option 30 by £50million to £435million, a decrease in excess of 10%. Option 12 was estimated to cost £465million.
- the Benefit Cost Ratio for Option 30 was increased to 1.60, more than double that of just 0.68 for Option 12.
- two recent one hour Speedwatch sessions that were undertaken in the Birdlip 30mph zone during September 2021 recorded a total of 56 vehicles travelling at 36mph, or above, 21 of which were logged at speeds of between 40mph and 49mph. Option 30 would significantly reduce the use of the B4070 through Birdlip village as a rat run whereas the future proximity of the A417, as proposed within Option 12, would further prejudice road safety as traffic volumes continue to grow.

Highways England have already adopted a sensitive and practical approach to the concerns expressed by Cowley residents throughout the consultation process. Landscaping and screening have been improved and noise reduction measures have been introduced whilst Option 30 will also make access to Cowley village more restricted. The time has now come, therefore, to embrace Option 30 on the basis of practicality, positive economic analysis and improved road safety.

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