



10<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Sirs,

**Project No. TR0 10056 – A417 Missing Link**

Following the Preliminary Meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the close of which Mr. Stone said that it should be “a fair and efficient examining process” and also invited comment regarding site visits in person, I would like to make the following comments.

Firstly, whilst the majority of the new road falls within the Parish of Cowley which includes the villages of Cowley and Birdlip, there was no consultation with the residents of Cowley Village. Mr. Goddard told me, at a Public Consultation, that he had offered to hold a meeting in the village but had been told by Julian Lavington, the Chairman of our Parish Council, that it was not necessary as he spoke for us. This was not the case, he did not mention Mr. Goddard’s offer to our Parish Councillors or at any Parish Council Meeting so we were completely unaware it had been made. Instead he appears to have used his considerable influence to promote Option 30, which takes the road away from Birdlip Village where he lives. Further, it is my understanding that Mr. Lavington did not consult with Cowley Parish Councillors before making a joint Representation to the Planning Inspectorate: I would emphasise that it is NOT Cowley and Birdlip Parish Council, it is, and always has been, Cowley Parish Council, Birdlip having been added unofficially, and in brackets, purely as a courtesy. None of this therefore constitutes “fairness”.

Secondly, having made no Representations to the PI within the permitted timeframe, when the residents of Birdlip, having seen those from Cowley, put in late submissions to counter same, which were accepted. They are using a late submission from Cowley as a precedent and this should not have been accepted either, we were all well aware of the timetable and should, except in exceptional circumstances, have adhered to same so again, this cannot be considered a fair process

A small point on efficiency, the transcript of the Meeting was, in parts, largely unintelligible having been digitally generated and not checked by a human. Perhaps, going forward, transcripts could be better presented to help the hard of hearing or to assist interested parties in checking items without the need to replay the entire audio version.

On the matter of site visits, it is absolutely essential that these take place in person, and that some are accompanied, in order that Panel Members can see for themselves the whole terrain, the environment and prevailing weather conditions which no drone or simulation can properly demonstrate.

Thank you for your time,  
Yours faithfully,

*C. Gilbert*  
Mrs. Carol Gilbert