

We live in Cowley and acknowledge that improvements need to be made to the single carriageway stretch on the A417 to the Air Ballon, but object to Option 30 for the following reasons.

The loss of habitats and disruption caused by Option 30 seem disproportionate compared to other alternatives. We believe that minimising the environmental impact should take precedence over all other considerations, including cost.

We are very concerned about the disruption and dangers of construction and diverted traffic using the small lanes through Cowley during the building phase of the project. There is no street lighting, or footpaths on the approaches to the village and even a small increase in traffic would have a severe impact on the local population.

The area between the A417 and Cowley is mostly farmland, benefits from a diverse range of habitats and is peaceful and quiet. Noise and light pollution will have a negative impact on the environment, the ambience of the village and, as a result, the value of the properties within the village.

Given that Option 30 creates a new dual carriageway with a 70 MPH speed limit through an AONB, the alternative of widening the existing road would seem preferable.

We understand that proposals have been made to address or minimise our objections, but in our opinion they are inadequate and an alternative route that is less invasive to the environment, less disruptive to the village and more conducive to the Government's stated aims to protect virgin countryside would be preferable.