

Whilst being against Route 30 in principle, I do suggest the proposed repurposing is far less than this important area of an AONB deserves. It is a poor solution and the potential for development is huge if the amenity fails, as it is so far from the nearest town and removal of the Air Balloon Pub, which is very popular, reduces the attraction of people to the area. No investment in facilities makes it unsustainable. The better option would be to leave it as a road for local traffic which would relieve congestion and help to reduce rat-running in the surrounding village. Retention of the existing roadway to act as a feeder to Ullenwood and Cheltenham.

I am also concerned from HE documentation that their own modelling expects a massive increase in rat-running from Stockwell through the village of Cowley. We were led to believe from HE that the bridge would be used by only farm traffic. This road is single tracked with a steep bendy hill with gullies either side of the road where water runs down. There are limited passing places and no passing if a large vehicle is met. It is already difficult encountering vehicles travelling in the opposite direction. This road is 60 mph with no pavement for pedestrians.

I am still worried that not enough has been done to ensure that this is an environmentally-led scheme, we are in the middle of a climate emergency, this proposed route will damage the natural environment, historical features and areas that are vital for biodiversity. There is no need for a new scar in the AONB which will be seen for miles across the Severn valley. Frequent low cloud, fog and general poor weather naturally occurring at the highest point of the Cotswolds regardless of the road design demands a lower speed limit safety-wise as well as sooner or later politically.

I was disappointed by the consultation conducted by highways due to its obvious bias towards Route 30. It was evident that most of their endeavours were put into presenting Route 30 as an attractive option and compared to minimal efforts into the other routes.