

As a resident of Cowley village I am disappointed with the responses made by HE. They appear to be thorough and detailed but on close examination do not answer any of the questions and concerns raised by Cowley villagers. We still feel that we have not been adequately consulted at an early enough stage to make a difference to both the choice of route 30 as opposed to route 12, and the details of the design. If route 30 is adopted, we are the community most negatively affected and consequently should have been consulted first. The issue with the joint Birdlip and Cowley Parish council and conflicting interests of the members has still not been addressed.

We do not accept that option 30 is the best option from any point of view. It is incredibly damaging to the environment (far more so than option 12) and we do not believe that the process has been impartial as the Birdlip views were sought and considered at the decision making stage whereas those of Cowley and other affected villages were not.

On the detail of option 30, we are very concerned about the increased rat running that HE have estimated will result from the build of and finished new road. Cowley Lane is estimated to have a 1000% increase in traffic. This is a poor single track road with no passing spaces and this will result in chaos and danger. Whilst it is right to discourage drivers not to use Cowley Wood Lane, its closure is a mistake as it just increases traffic on the other lanes into Cowley. Both Cowley Wood Lane and Cowley Lane should be improved with a better road surface that withstands the erosion from surface water and includes some passing spaces. Cowley Lane and well as Cowley Wood Lane should also be signed to discourage non residents from using it. In addition the road from Cowley to Coberley is already used as a rat run and this too is single track. the new road design will encourage more vehicles to use this route to get onto the A417 via the A436 and this road is simply not suitable.

The local roads are all vulnerable to flash flooding and more consideration should be given to the impact the new road will have on this. The position of option 30 even closer to Cowley and higher than before will make this worse. The road should move away from Cowley so that it has a natural hill between it and the village to stop water and baffle noise.

Whilst I support the transformation of the A417 to dual carriageway along its entire length, I believe this option is the wrong option being the most environmentally damaging and simply moving the rat running and noise instead of getting rid of it altogether.