

Throughout the process the Highways group has been evasive and abstract when confronted with hard questions about the details of the planned road. There have been few clear answers that are not cloaked in PR speak or vagaries. We have yet to see any clear answers regarding the impact that this proposed road will have upon the surrounding area. The only clarity we have received is the utter dismissal of the impact that this proposition will have upon Cowley village. To the point where Highways admitted that they have not visited. Words fail to express the sheer gall of making statements about how the village will not be affected by the proposed road while never having been there and shows complete disregard for those living there. It is hard to put trust in a scheme when from the outset it is clear that our opinions aren't being listened to.

There has been claims that this road will be environmentally beneficial. Yet again this is a lie. The proposed green bridge is smaller than proposed, showing that this was nothing more than a token gesture. All the while acres of land are being ploughed up, forests cut down and habitat to nature destroyed. That anyone could claim that an environmental impact survey showed that these actions were acceptable calls into question the validity of such a report. This is before there are cars and lorries. The amount of damage that will be done in the construction period alone will be devastating for the natural wildlife at a time when many species are threatened. When the government has promised a green initiative. This is before the roads are littered with the corpses of animals who do not understand the highway code and are pulverised by lorries. Then again I am sure that the environmental survey has counted the dead and decided that they are acceptable in the name of building a new road.

We could talk of the risks that uncaring construction will have to the local archeology and historical sites but as the body in charge has shown to not care about the living one can hardly expect them to care about the past. Rather than being able to show local children places where Romans and Celts once walked we can instead show them the site where the port-a-loos were kept.

Likewise we could talk about the dangers that repurposing the A417 will have. Narrow country roads are not conducive to heavy traffic and rat race drivers. We could talk about the expected rise in accidents and fatalities in an area that has few. We could talk about how the verges and hedgerows will be destroyed as vehicles try to squeeze down single track roads. How the already potholed roads will become little more than gravel with mud pits running along the side. Cars dumped at any free space. We could talk about how pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders will be put in lethal risk by this increase in traffic. That what had once been a safe walk through the countryside now will turn into an ordeal of exhaust fumes and heavy traffic. We could talk about all these things. Of the irreparable damage that it will cause to the village. To people. As the inspectors have not actually been along any of these roads however they will not know what is being talked about. I am sure that when they looked at google maps it looked fine.