
Expert Report Update

In our July newsletter, we mentioned that we intended to commission Gerald Kells to produce a report representing a robust independent summary of arguments and challenges from the specific perspective of Teddington & Alstone. It is our intention to use the finished report as a communication and lobbying tool for interested parties and key influencers. To pay for this work, we have a grant agreed with the Parish Council. You will recall that earlier this year, residents of Teddington and Alstone expressed the view that the 2019/20 Parish precept should be increased to allow this allocation to be put up to £2,500. We have now agreed a brief for this work with Gerald which can be viewed below and on our website under the reports tab. As you can see, we hope to have the report finalised by the end of September, at which time we will of course share it with you. If you have any questions about the brief or what we are asking Gerald to produce, please do get in touch. Contact information is below and also on the website.

TAAG Brief for engaging Gerald Kells, Strategic Policy & Campaigns Advisor

Required Output

A written report outlining key relevant objections to the proposed A46 expansion or realignment produced on behalf of the TAAG and funded by the TAPC.

Client Aims

To use the material for briefing and lobbying purposes, raising awareness of concerns and influencing future road investment decisions. The briefing may also be used as a basis for further work or reporting e.g. to drill deeper into and expand on key conclusions.

Audience

1. Teddington & Alstone residents & Teddington & Alstone Parish Council.
2. RIS2 key influencers and decision makers e.g. Highways England, DfT, Secretary of State for Transport, Minister of State at the Department for Transport, Laurence Robertson MP plus Midlands Connect, TBC, GCC, CPRE, AONB. A46 Partnership, Western Gateway, Friends of the Earth, Roads to Nowhere.
3. Relevant local media

Scope of work

The A46 as it passes into Gloucestershire from the county boundary with Worcestershire, through the Teddington Hands roundabout and across to Junction 9 of the M5, with explicit consideration of the options and impacts affecting the villages of Teddington & Alstone. This should include potential associated implications for the A435 and B4077 roads which connect these villages, should the routing of the A46 be changed.

This includes the implications of both local development plans and the Midlands Connect proposals for an A46 Expressway.

This initial report is expected to exclude any involvement of further third-party experts (e.g. road engineer, flood engineer, environmentalists) due to timeframe and funding limitations. It would consider the broad issues. However, any useful future interventions, including more technical work, should be highlighted to TAAG separately but not included in the briefing.

TAAG will assist with documents. Maps and diagrams will be taken from existing documentation but the consultant will advise TAAG on new maps and diagrams if they need to produce them.

Context

The work should draw-on and where appropriate expand on the key findings, arguments and conclusions from the April 2019 report produced for the CPRE “Ashchurch A46 proposals” to prioritise and articulate these from the explicit position of Teddington & Alstone. Also, this may draw further from background information of existing resources including TAAG analysis of JCS transport strategy proposals and other relevant analysis.

Suggested Key Content

- Critically consider the implications of the A46 bypass proposals and GCC development proposals (e.g. the extent of the need for a new major road, the role of through, local & commuter traffic, lack of a holistic transport plan, the role of online improvements)
- Route observations (including on-line issues, reasons to ignore/caveat the dated 1993 proposals)
- Challenges to Teddington & Alstone, such as severance of Teddington from local facilities at Teddington Hands roundabout, a Beckford bypass
- Alternative approaches
- Potential for environmental impacts (although these would require technical input to progress in detail)

Output

The output would be a short plain English text report for TAAG to use in whole or in extract (but without changes) for lobbying and media purposes, including an Executive Summary of the Key Points. The document would stand as an independent consultant’s report and TAAG anticipate it being referenced for lobbying material which would have to change dependent on the audience, as well as any new information being published.

The work would not take account of future Midlands Connect announcements. If they happened during the work, it might require additional time to re-edit the proposals. Further work might be suggested when those are published (expected Autumn 2019).