



# TAAG NEWSLETTER #27 - May 2023

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### Public Consultation

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) had been planning to hold the delayed non-statutory public consultation on the route options this Summer. However, we have recently been made aware that this is no longer the case and the consultation is postponed once again. The reason for this appears to be due to our local MP, Laurence Robertson, tabling a debate in Westminster Hall on the changes to the A46. *(See below for more information on this).*

We have written to GCC who have confirmed the postponement and that it will be a little while before they can share any further details.

### Laurence Robertson MP – Westminster Hall debate on the changes to the A46

Laurence Robertson's PA contacted TAAG to let us know that he had tabled a Westminster Hall debate on the changes to the A46. All parliamentary debates are recorded with transcripts provided and we have provided a link to the c30 minute video clip and transcript [on our website](#). We haven't had a chance to speak with Laurence since the debate but these are the key points from his speech as we understand it:

- The business case submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) last September to gain funding, is deeply flawed.
- The Grey route\* (which includes making J9 of the M5 2 way only) must be withdrawn from the route options submitted with the business case or, if not, Laurence has requested it be rejected.
- The capacity of the A46 itself needs to be increased to accommodate ever-increasing local traffic and this hasn't been considered.
- A bypass of Ashchurch should only be considered if there is clear evidence that traffic comes from the NE of Tewkesbury *and couldn't be redirected along the M42*.
- The representative from the DfT confirmed that the business case with the route options could still be adjusted i.e. route options removed or added but this was up to GCC who were the lead on this scheme. However, they were happy to meet with Laurence to look at other options.
- If approved, a scheme would likely fall into the Road Investment Strategy 4 (RIS4) period of 2030-35.

*\*This was one of four routes submitted - none of these have been publicly shared because the public consultation was and is still postponed.*

While this latest delay in being able to see route proposals is frustrating, the formal challenge to the GCC business case is encouraging. Also, the further delay extends the date at which any development could start. We will provide another update once we have more details on this, along with other news.

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