



TAAG NEWSLETTER 28 - August 2023

In our last update, we advised residents of the latest postponement of the non-statutory public consultation by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and the subsequent Westminster Hall debate triggered by Laurence Robertson MP on the subject of GCC's business case submission. There has been limited activity since May, but here is our latest update on developments.

Public Consultation on Route Options

As it has been 3 months since GCC delayed the non-statutory public consultation, we recently chased them for any news. Their response was that they were still dealing with a number of external issues and couldn't provide an update at this time. As soon as they do have an update they will publicise it, but they've said this might not be for a few months, or potentially longer.

So we think it looks unlikely a public consultation will happen this year.

Tewkesbury Garden Town

You will be aware from the Parish Council's recent newsletter of the meeting with Cllr Richard Stanley, the new Leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council, and the Chief Executive, Alistair Cunningham, on Thursday, 10th August. This meeting was to discuss the recent gateway review of the Tewkesbury Garden Town project and the recommendations made. TAAG were invited to attend and ask any questions relevant to the M5 J9 & A46 transport scheme.

We found the meeting to be really very positive, and hopefully we'll all see a very different and more open approach going forward, particularly in respect of listening to the community and those impacted.

We took the opportunity to again raise our concerns about the routes for a new bypass using the A435 and showed them a potential alternative route joining the A46 between Teddington Hands roundabout and Aston Cross.

The Parish Council will provide an update of the meeting at the next Parish Council meeting on Tuesday 19th September.

National Highways Route Strategies Review - South Midlands

We were contacted by the Teddington & Alstone Parish Council (TAPC) to advise that they had been invited to provide feedback to the latest review of the strategic route network by National Highways (NH). The overview report for the South Midlands included the A46 as this runs from J9 M5 up to Evesham as one of their priority areas for further investigation. TAAG compiled a response which has been adopted by TAPC and submitted to NH. A copy of this is on the TAAG website.

Gloucestershire County Council Q&A's

We submitted written questions to the GCC meeting in May seeking clarification around scheme costs and matters around the so called 'grey route' raised in the Westminster Hall debate. We did receive some brief further detail on costs incurred, suggesting a cumulative spend of £8.7m to 5/4/23 and that further expenditure would be within 'existing budgets'. The answers provided by Cllr. Gray on the 'grey route' contradicted the view that this option would lead to a reduced two-way Junction 9. He avoided commenting on why a business case had been submitted when the leader of GCC objected to one of the routes. We have followed up on both points, so far without success, and will raise these again at the GCC meeting in September.

Meeting with Cllr Chris Coleman

Following the local Tewkesbury Borough Council elections In May, we asked our newly elected ward councillor, Cllr Chris Coleman, to meet with us to discuss views on the bypass proposal. He responded initially, but has subsequently failed to respond to further e-mails to agree a date.

Newsletters

If you are aware of anyone you think may be interested in receiving our Newsletters, then please point them in the direction of our website where they can subscribe.

It is probable that the key milestone of the much postponed public consultation is unlikely to resurface until next year, and we will not send out a further update until there is any news of significance to share.