



TAAG NEWSLETTER #29 - December 2023

When producing our last newsletter in August we said there was unlikely to be further news for some time and this has, by and large, proved to be the case. However, with the end of the year approaching, we wanted to provide a brief update.

Laurence Robertson MP

You may recall that, in May, Laurence challenged the Gloucestershire County Council's (GCC) bypass business case submission to the Department for Transport (DfT). Specifically, he called for the withdrawal of one of the route proposals (no route proposals have been made public) and requested GCC also consider measures to increase capacity in response to the growing congestion along the A46. In November, he included the following update on his website:

"Pleased to receive notification from the Roads Minister and the County Council that possible proposals to reduce J9 to a two-way junction are being dropped. And that the Minister is asking that options are to be considered to increase the capacity of the A46. Along with Cllr Vernon Smith, this is what I've been campaigning on for over a year and I held a debate in Parliament (9th May) on the issue. Already the A46 is congested and traffic will get worse as more development takes place. I'll keep working on this with the County Council, National Highways and the government."

While this is unlikely to stop progress of a new bypass proposal, it does at least offer hope that mitigating actions along the existing A46 will become part of the overall solution.

Tewkesbury Garden Town (TGT)

The TGT programme has been re-launched following a critical review of the previous governance regime. TAAG has been invited to join one of five liaison groups, "The Communities Liaison Group". *This represents a broad range of resident groups and clubs, many of whom will be directly affected by major development in and around the Ashchurch area. We will keep an eye on how emerging plans impact on potential bypass routes, although in practice GCC is likely to press ahead with these before detailed TGT plans are available.

* We understand that Teddington and Alstone Parish Council (TAPC) is involved in a separate "Parish Council Liaison Group".

Road Investment Strategy (RIS)

National Highways (NH) prioritise and plan for future road investment in five year time periods e.g. RIS1 (2015-20), RIS2 (2020-25) etc. In response to a question raised by TAAG at the September GCC meeting, we were advised by Cllr David Gray that due to changes in NH priorities for RIS3, the bypass scheme would fall within the RIS4 programme (construction 2030-35). This remains subject to a business case proposal being submitted and approved by DfT.

Joint Core Strategy (JCS)

GCC periodically reviews the JCS which covers a range of policies including new housing, transport, and road priorities etc. The JCS has been renamed "Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic and Local Plan (CGTSLP)" with a planned public consultation this Winter. We'll keep an eye out to see if anything has an impact on possible bypass implications.

Public Consultation on route proposals

Following the most recent postponement last May, there continues to be no news on project activity or when a consultation may now take place. The need to align with RIS4 project timelines could mean yet further delay.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

TAAG - Teddington & Alstone A 46 Advisory Group
Email - jan.catbells@gmail.com
Telephone number - 07941727963
Website - www.taagroup.co.uk