



## TAAG NEWSLETTER #33

### October 2024

### M5 J9 & A46 Transport Scheme – Public Engagement

It is apparent that of the proposed options, Option A would definitely adversely affect Teddington & Alstone villages, Option B less so. **Option A Awful, Option B Best.** However, we will need to put a lot of thought into determining our best response, both collectively and as individual residents. It's so important that we get this right, as it could be the last opportunity to stop them turning the A435 into a busy trunk road.

We have until 2nd December to respond, so there is no need to rush into submitting your response until we have all had time to digest the information provided and receive answers to our questions.

#### **GCC Public Engagement Event at George Watson Hall Saturday 19 October**

TAAG attended this event on Saturday and found it really useful to be able to ask questions of the Councillors and members of the project team.

We were really pleased to hear Cllr David Gray say that he preferred Option B to Option A mainly because of the impact on Teddington & Alstone.

We discussed the impact with members of the project team who were involved in planning and designing the route options and pointed out some of the negative impacts of Option A that we believe they missed. TAAG will of course be preparing a submission (based on the TAAG Summary of Concerns Document which was updated in 2022), as will the Parish Council we understand.

There is another event at Northway Community Hub (Main Hall), Lee Walk, Northway, Tewkesbury, on **Wednesday 23 October 2024 - Opens: 11:00hrs Closes: 16:00hrs** if you didn't manage to make the first one.

## **Local Drop-in event**

We mentioned, in our last newsletter, that we intended to hold a drop-in event in the Teddington Village Hall to help residents understand the full picture and hear our views on the plans. We can now confirm this event will be held on;

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November from 3.00 – 7.00 PM.**

We will have physical copies of all the route options on display, as well as the Public Engagement Brochure and their Survey questions.

Councillor Vernon Smith has already agreed to attend and we have also invited other Councillors, our MP Cameron Thomas, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) officers from the project team and representatives from Atkins Realis (the Consultants tasked with the planning and design of the route options).

TAAG will also be sharing our views on the Pros and Cons of Option A versus Option B including what we believe has been missed by GCC in the table in the Public Engagement Brochure. We want to stress that we believe Option A could result in significant increases in traffic through Alstone as a result of drivers avoiding using the new enhanced junction on the A435, due to difficulty entering and exiting Teddington.

## **TAAG Questionnaire**

To capture residents' views and concerns about the route options, TAAG are doing our own questionnaire. The results will be included in the TAAG submission to GCC to add weight to the arguments and help show the strength of feeling. We would really appreciate you finding the time to complete it. We will be sending the questionnaire out separately by email, so watch out for it.

TAAG are aware that not everyone in our villages will be receiving these newsletters and even though we do display them in the churches and on noticeboards in both villages, some residents may be unaware of the public engagement happening. We aim to reach as many residents as possible and encourage them to share their views by completing the GCC survey. We have therefore requested a supply of both the Public Engagement Brochure and the Survey and hope these will be available at the Local Drop-in event on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

If you know of a neighbour who doesn't use the internet, please spread the word about the Local Drop-in event or let a member of TAAG know, so that we can ensure they receive the brochure and survey. Thank you.