



Teddington & Alstone A46 Advisory Group

TAAG NEWSLETTER #39 September 2025

M5 J9 & A46 Transport Scheme

We apologise that it has been 5 months since our last communication. You will see from the information below, that we have been trying to build new relationships following the general election last year and the local elections this year. Sadly, we are finding our new MP and new councillors difficult to pin down and engage with.

There is however some news we wanted to pass on, so this newsletter provides an update on our activity, the activity of the Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) project team (Atkins Realis) and the status of the transport scheme as we understand it.

Route Option Public Engagement Report

We were originally advised that a report summarising the feedback from the Public Engagement held in Autumn 2024, would be published in the Spring of this year. Then we were told it had been delayed until the Summer but there is still no sign of it being published.

Meeting with Cllr Kate Usmar

We had a productive meeting with our new Councillor Kate Usmar on 5th June and she subsequently attended the Parish Council meeting on 10th June. We outlined our concerns about the route options and provided her with our submission to the Public Engagement route options and she seemed supportive of our views. She subsequently arranged for us to meet with the project team for an update (see below).

Meeting with GCC, Project Team (Atkins Realis) & Cllr Julian Tooke

We met with the Project Team, Cllr Julian Tooke and 2 GCC officers on 9th July at the Council offices in Gloucester. This was our first opportunity to meet the councillor with responsibility for Planning and Infrastructure i.e. the M5 J9 & A46 Transport Scheme is part of his remit. After providing a verbal overview of the history and status of the transport scheme and

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explaining our concerns about the route options that utilise the A435, Cllr Tooke was reticent to support our views. He didn't feel he had sufficient information, nor had he had time to digest the information we and the project team had provided. We have since reached out to him, to provide any help he needs to get up to speed. Sadly, we have heard nothing further from him since July.

The key items we wanted to discuss with the project team at this meeting were;

- Q. What had happened to their report summarising the Public Engagement feedback.
- A. We were told that it was finished but was waiting approval and should be published imminently.
- Q. What had happened to the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC) submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2024? Has it been approved?
- A. The SOC has still not been approved and is caught up in the new government's internal review of DfT's funding and the overall Spending Review. The team had no idea of any timescales as to when they might get a decision from DfT one way or the other (see below item on Government's new 10-year pipeline).
- Q. What is the timeframe for producing the short list of route options?
- A. Current timescales are Spring/Summer 2026.
- Q. What is the timeframe for the Public Consultation on the short list of route options?
- A. The team stated that they were still to decide how best to communicate the short list, so there are no timescales for this at present.

We would have preferred to see their minutes of the meeting before updating residents, to ensure our understanding of what was said was accurate. However, the minutes have still not been provided and are apparently awaiting agreement by Cllr Tooke.

Cameron Thomas MP

Since our virtual meeting with our MP during the public engagement exercise last year, we have still not been able to get any response from him or agreement to an 'in-person' meeting. We have asked our Councillor Kate Usmar if she can help us make contact with both Cam Thomas and Julian Tooke.

Government's Announcement of a 10-year pipeline of road schemes

On 8th July, the Government made an announcement listing the large (over £25m) road and rail schemes given government support and funding as part of the Spending Review settlement. The announcement can be read here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/transforming-the-uks-road-and-rail-networks>

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A number of road and rail schemes have had their funding confirmed as part of this announcement. However, the M5 J9 and A46 transport scheme is shown on the list as 'under consideration', which fits with what the project team told us at the meeting the following day. The Government's definition of 'under consideration' is stated as 'local road schemes on which the Department will be working with local authorities over the months ahead to determine their viability and affordability'.

So, we wait. But rest assured, as soon as we hear anything of note, we will let you know.

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