



Campaign Against the Levels Motorway
Website: www.savethelevels.org.uk

NEWSLETTER – July 2014

M4 Motorway Announcement

On 16th July, the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport, Edwina Hart, announced that the Welsh Government has adopted a plan for a new three lane motorway between Magor and Castleton. The route will broadly follow the 'black route' proposed in the November 2013 consultation, passing through the Gwent Levels.

This commits the Welsh Government to planning and building the new road, and also to spending over a billion pounds of taxpayers' money. This is likely to come from a combination of the Welsh budget and money borrowed from the UK government.

The announcement came immediately prior to publication of a report produced by the Environment and Sustainability Committee, which states that there are 'serious unanswered questions' regarding the M4 consultation process to date.

The minister has also inadequately considered the alternative 'Blue Route' put forward by Transport Professor Stuart Cole, which upgrades existing infrastructure. The blue route would be less environmentally damaging, nearly a quarter of the cost, cause less disruption during construction and could be operational within a few years. The new motorway would not be completed until 2021 at the earliest.

Next CALM Meeting

**Wednesday 20th August
7.30pm Newport Civic Centre**

**Please come to discuss the
latest developments and
support the campaign**



How do you feel about a new motorway?
Shocked? Worried? Disappointed? Horrified? Outraged?

Don't keep your feelings to yourself!

Write to Edwina Hart to tell her she's made the worst decision. And write to your AMs to find out what they're going to do about it:

Plaid have withdrawn from budget talks and publicly stated their opposition to the new motorway – write in support of their strong stance.

Lib Dem and **Conservative** – we believe most AMs are opposed to the new motorway, but little has been said publicly. Ask your AM what their opinion is – encourage them to read the Environment and Sustainability Committee report, promote the blue route, and reject the black route.

Labour backbenchers - Mick Antoniw (Pontypridd), Julie Morgan(Cardiff north), Jenny Rathbone(Cardiff Central) and Julie James(Swansea West) – all spoke out against the decision in the Senedd – write in support of their strong stance.

Labour – write stating your strong opposition to their decision.

Some points to mention:

- The environmental damage will include habitat loss, pollution and fragmentation – in a unique, specially protected landscape.
- The cost – over a billion pounds – could be better spent elsewhere
- The alternative blue route would be cheaper and quicker to build, and would have the same predicted impact on traffic levels.

Make it personal – your AMs should be representing your views, and acting in your interests. Make it clear that this is the opposite of what you want from your government.

Staying in touch

Are you receiving this newsletter for the first time? We've updated our mailing list to include new supporters, people who've responded to recent consultations, and those who have supported us in the past. If you don't want to receive communication from CALM, please let the secretary know.

Join the CALM group on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/26900967173/>

Email the CALM secretary – Sorrel Jones sjones@gwentwildlife.org

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