



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

NEWSLETTER – September 2014

Friends of the Earth Cymru vs Welsh Government

FoE Cymru, supported by CALM have launched their legal challenge against the Welsh Government. The challenge claims that the M4 consultation process to date has not complied with European law, and is therefore not legal.

The challenge is based on the facts that the Welsh Government's consultation:

- Did not consider reasonable alternatives to road building
- Did not present options that were sufficiently different from each other
- Did not describe appropriate objectives at the outset

CALM members, both individuals and organisations, have supported FoE Cymru by providing information, research and evidence. We would like to thank you for your invaluable support in preparing the case. A court date is expected in October.



It's not too late to have your say

Write to Edwina Hart, the Transport Minister stating your opposition to road building on the Gwent Levels.

Write to your Assembly Members (you have 1 local and 4 regional AMs) stating your opposition and asking them what their stance is.

Encourage them to read the Environment and Sustainability Committee Report (<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s29494/Report%20-%20July%202014.pdf>), and urge them to consider more sustainable alternatives.

Don't forget to share your responses with us.

Notes from the latest CALM meeting

The August CALM meeting was held at Newport Civic Centre, and was well attended. The Chair, James Byrne, welcomed everyone and gave an update on the campaign since the announcement of the adopted route. He was keen to emphasise that although the Government's decision was a blow, there is still much more that can be done to oppose a new motorway, and many more hurdles for the Welsh Government. There will be a judicial review which challenges the consultation process, and there will be further opportunities to challenge the decision through advocacy going forward during the next few years. There will also be a Public Inquiry, and the Welsh government's Budget setting process will also be the subject of advocacy.

Attention was drawn to the Environment and Sustainability Committee report, which condemns several aspects of the consultation process. It was also noted that opposition parties have spoken out against the road, as have several Labour backbenchers. Carl Sargeant AM has taken over as Minister for Natural Resources which includes Planning and Sustainable Development. However, Edwina Hart AM is still the Minister responsible for transport.

Friends of the Earth Cymru gave an update on the judicial review, and other organisations gave updates on their work. It was emphasised however, that CALM is a community organisation, and that individuals who care about the Gwent Levels are a vital part of the campaign.

You can request a copy of the minutes from the CALM secretary.



Urgent Appeal

CALM is in urgent need of funding to cover our campaigning costs.

Send donations made out to
"Campaign Against the Levels
Motorway"
c/o Gwent Wildlife Trust
Seddon House
Dingestow
Monmouth
NP7 0BN

Thank you for your support!

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