

Press Release

Pembrokeshire Fiends of the Earth is asking the Minister of Transport to scrap plans for the Llanddewi to Redstone Cross Bypass

The Welsh Government is proposing to spend £45 million on a by-pass on the A40 from the Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin; the journey time savings as a result of the scheme would be 10-20 seconds. They propose spending a further £20 million on a by-pass from Penblewin to Redstone Cross south of the A40.

The safety of other road users has been cited as a major advantage of the scheme. Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth supports measures to improve safety and stresses that they believe the money should be reallocated to improving local connectivity, safe routes for cycles and pedestrians and public transport. This would include a safe crossing at Llanddewi Velfrey with widening of pavements, traffic calming measures and a safe crossing at Redstone Cross.

Eleanor Clegg, a spokesperson for Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth said, “At this time of Climate Emergency and when a quarter of UK mammals and nearly half of the birds are at risk of extinction should the Welsh Government be spending money to extend road infrastructure focusing on through-traffic? Wales risks failing to meet its own targets on carbon emissions unless it changes its over-reliance on the car.”

“The Welsh Government's own policies prioritise travel by foot, bicycle and public transport. They need to act on their policies. The new Transport for Quality of Life research by Friends of the Earth 2019 shows road schemes generate more traffic and congestion, lead to significant environmental and landscape damage and show little evidence of economic benefit to local economies.”

A public inquiry is being held at Llanddewi Velfrey Village Hall from 10th till 19th March; Pembrokeshire Friends of the Earth is hoping to persuade the Welsh Government to take a more flexible, forward looking approach, instead of locking future generations into the negative impacts of car dependence and climate change. Money needs to be invested in an integrated public transport system: better cheaper more frequent bus and train services, accessible by pedestrian and cycle tracks with incentives for car clubs and lift sharing schemes.

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/ask-transport-minister-to-scrap-plans-for-a40-llanddewi-velfrey-to-redstone-cross-bypass>

The report “*Transport Fit for Future Generations*” by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, in partnership with the Centre for Transport and Society (CTS), University of the West of England, Sustrans and New Economics Foundation (Published September 2018) is an important source of information to support our arguments.

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