

Agenda 17 b



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Safer A38 and Future Expressway

1 June 2021

Dear Town Clerk,

Safe38 is declaring an *A38 Road Safety Emergency*.

Following stakeholder engagement with Highways England we have learnt that the current scope of the plans for improvements to the Carkeel roundabout to Trerulefoot in SE Cornwall fall wildly short of the mark for what is needed to save lives and secure livelihoods for generations to come.

We are writing to you today because we need your help to ensure that the residents of Cornwall and its visitors get the infrastructure investment that is required and not a cheaper *less than ideal solution*. I will outline briefly below what the emergency is and what you can do to help avert a disaster:

A road that has a killed and seriously injured rate over 3 times the national average for a road of its type, which operates over capacity leading to chronic congestion, cutting villages in half, impassable to the tallest vehicles, liable to heavy flooding, steep inclines and extreme bends and regular unplanned closures. One would be hard pressed to find another section of the Strategic Road Network that is in such desperate need of investment due to the myriad of deficiencies with it.

It is not fit for purpose and the current plans to address the problem fall well short of what is needed. Highways England themselves have said that a dual carriageway bypass as planned in the 1990s would be the ideal solution however they are not able to put that forward as an option to the public to be consulted on in 2022 as the Department for Transport have defined the project in such a way that prohibits this.

As part of early stakeholder engagement with Highways England we have learnt that the most Cornwall can hope for is some form of single carriageway bypass in either small sections or at very best mostly offline. We believe this to be woefully inadequate. From day one of opening such a road would do little to combat the current congestion leading to continued rat running on local roads.

The section of the A38 between Saltash and Trerulefoot makes a compelling case for investment which is why after a hard-fought battle by a multitude of stakeholders it has been identified as a section of the Strategic Road Network that is in the pipeline for improvements between 2025-2030.

A new dual carriageway bypass would boost the local and regional economy to the tune of £900m in induced economic growth securing livelihoods and will slash the collision rate saving the most amount of lives. A plan to dual this section of road was ready to go to tender in the mid-1990s but was sadly cancelled due to budget cuts.

A modern offline dual carriageway similar to the one planned in the 1990s would enable the current single carriageway section to be used as a local access road fit for buses, cyclists, pedestrians and local traffic giving South East Cornwall an integrated transport network fit for generations to come.

Furthermore, it would free Tideford and Landrake of heavy traffic, eliminate the toxic air quality in Tideford (a Cornwall Council designated Air Quality Management Area since 2011), remove congestion and unplanned closures along the route and eliminate the need for high vehicles to divert along narrow country lanes to avoid a low bridge.

Even the Dobwalls bypass that opened in 2008 which had lower daily flows than the Carkeel to Trerulefoot section was deemed to need to be built to a dual carriageway standard in order to ensure congestion was removed.

Safe38 believes the residents of Cornwall and its visitors deserve better than the current scope of proposals. It does not represent a *levelling up* and does not appear to be *building back better*. Now more than ever Cornwall needs the right investment in our infrastructure in order to ensure a safe, prosperous and healthy future for generations to come.

Our Call to Action!

- We ask you to join us in *Declaring a Road Safety Emergency on the A38*.
- We invite you to write to your MP, the Secretary of State for Transport and your County Councillor to ask them to redefine this project in such a way that enables the option of a dual carriageway to be added to the options to be consulted on next year.
- Will you also consider supporting the Safe38 campaign as a priority for your Council.

We believe that if Cornwall can speak with one voice on this matter we will be able to secure the investment that is needed which it has been shown can be achieved elsewhere in Cornwall such as the dualling of the A30. Only the appropriate investment will ensure that lives are saved and livelihoods are secured for this and many generations to come. We know it will take many years to develop plans to get a dual carriageway delivered but we must push for the best solution and we must push for that now.

Most respectfully,

James Millidge
Chair of Safe38