

Agenda 14 a .

17/01/23 COUNCIL



12th Dec 2022

Dear Councillors,

Please find attached our presentation to the Community Network Panel on 7th Dec. Following the presentation it was proposed that it be sent out to all the Parish Councils for discussion and a vote on whether you would be happy to support us in our aims.

We would be delighted to come and talk to you in person if you feel that would be helpful.

With many thanks and best wishes,

Mel

Dr Mel Priston

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Follow us on Twitter @TamarTollAG #TollFreeTamar

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Community Network Panel  
Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 2022

We are a community group formed in mid-April this year when we were given 2 weeks notice of an increase in costs to tag holders– we are now over 2000 strong, with a fully constituted Committee, bank account and website.



## **Who are we?**

We are a community group formed to campaign on behalf of residents and businesses of Plymouth and South East Cornwall, including Saltash and Torpoint.

## **Our aim is the abolition of tolls on the Tamar Crossings**

We're campaigning for a #TollFreeTamar  
That's for bridge users. That's for ferry users.  
That's for all users of both crossings

## Who are we campaigning for?



We're campaigning for **those being hit hardest by the tolls:**

- People accessing medical or dental care at Derriford Hospital or elsewhere in Plymouth, particularly those visiting multiple times eg for cancer treatment
- Families supporting relatives on opposite sides of the Tamar
- Carers making frequent trips across the Tamar to look after their clients
- Parents taking their children to school
- SE Cornwall business owners

So we're campaigning on behalf of your voters! We have spoken to many who finding the costs difficult, especially for regular hospital visits – they feel that they are being unfairly “taxed” as there is no other viable route.

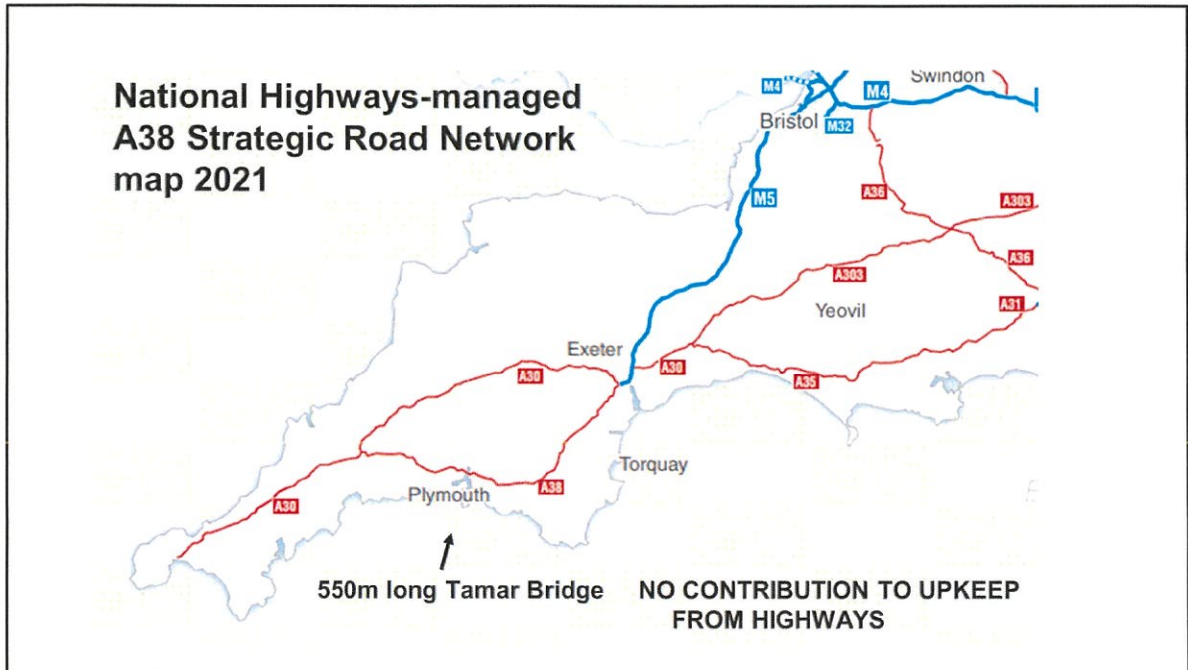
## Why are we campaigning?



We're campaigning to reduce the **cumulative significant impact** on local residents and businesses

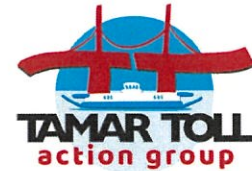
- Plymouth and Cornwall have deprived areas and the area as a whole has **lower than average wages**
- High costs for people **crossing multiple times a week** for work
- Toll collection impact on **congestion and pollution**
- Inherent **accident risks** from multiple toll booth lanes converging
- **Charges for deliveries** to Cornwall that are free to deliver to Plymouth
- Current Government strategy on **levelling up** and **Devolution deal**

For example Curry's and AO charge for deliveries to Saltash but not Plymouth; we have trouble getting taxis to take us home if we need to cross the Tamar; and takeaway deliveries won't deliver across the Tamar.



Some examples are that National Highways do not pay anything towards the upkeep of the A38 over the Tamar bridge. The devolution deal that has been negotiated between Govt and Cornwall councils cabinet makes no proposals to change the tolls on the Tamar bridge and Torpoint ferry, unlike Scotland or Wales where devolved Governments have scrapped such tolls. In fact the devolution deal proposes that the councils work with Tamar Crossings to help update legislation to enable tolls to be revised more easily (point 70, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cornwall-devolution-deal-kevambos-digresennans-kernow/cornwall-devolution-deal> )

## Comparison with other bridge tolls



Bridge Location	Car Cost	Concessions
<b>Tamar Bridge</b>	<b>£2.60*</b>	<b>50% off for tag</b>
Dartford Crossing M25	£2.50	£20 per year for locals
Mersey Silver Jubilee Bridge	£2.00	£10 per year for locals
Mersey Tunnels	£1.80	80p for locals
Tyne Tunnels	£1.90	10% discount for pre-pay
Humber Bridge	£1.50	10% discount for tag
Whitney Bridge	£1.00	60p multi-crossing per day
Clifton suspension bridge	£1.00	57p for multi-buy
<b>Woolwich Ferry</b>	<b>FREE</b>	

The Joint Committee are currently in discussions with the Government to consider allowing tolls to increase annually and automatically in line with inflation and the Retail Price Index (RPI).

A summary of the 8 most expensive bridge crossings in the UK – from Jan 2023 the Tamar Bridge will be the most expensive. The Woolwich ferry is now free- paid for by Transport for London.



## **Background to the Campaign**



**Our aim is to create the political will for our  
Councillors and MPs to fight for change on our  
behalf and obtain central funding for the crossings**

Who we will be petitioning for support?

MPs: Sheryll Murray, Johnny Mercer, Luke Pollard, Gary Streeter

All Plymouth and Cornwall Councillors, including those on the JC

All town and parish councillors in the area

## What do we need from you?



- **Your support**
- **Your opinions**
- **Your suggestions**
- **Spread the word!**

We'd love to hear from you, please contact us. And thanks once again for the chance to introduce ourselves.



[www.tamartollactiongroup.org](http://www.tamartollactiongroup.org)

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