

Mary Walsh speech to Cabinet 6th December 2017

My name is Mary Walsh resident of Whitchurch Village for 35 yrs member of Whitchurch Village action Group and local member of CPRE

WECA =West of England combined authority transportation plan

I am here to speak to you about the latest WECA Transport VISION with regard to Whitchurch Village and our neighbouring villages. Officers confirm that there will be no Transport Plan before the JSP consultation period ends. Now even for your Local Plan there are legal requirements for a Transport Plan which should be fully funded and implementable.

We are talking about the A37. This is not a trunk road and is not a Strategic Route. We would like to ask have you done an Origins and Destination study. Have you considered other routes? Have you completed an Economic and Justification and viability study?

This road carries huge Lorries from where? Southampton Bournemouth, Poole and anywhere else along this route, all going through Whitchurch Village. Pensford and other villages along the A37 are crippled by Lorries and the A37 is constantly being closed due to Lorries unable to pass each other through Pensford village. A new link road at Whitchurch Village to Hicksgate will not help us and will not help Pensford and other villages along this route. No, any new road must be at Chelwood. This then would link up with the Airport and Bath. This should be your consideration after your Origins and Destination study.

Do you all know where Whitchurch village is? Do you know where I am talking about? .The area is dictated by its topography Dundry Hill, a river to its left and a river to its right so it was always easier to develop North Bristol. Business does not want to be here – it takes too long to get to the Motorways because of the topography. The A37 and A4 are narrow town roads with no ability to be widened.

You must be accountable. You must be brave. You did a U turn on Bathampton Park and Ride on Green Belt. Now you should reassess your proposals for our area all on Green Belt which is likely to be challenged and even be upheld by an Inspector upon scrutiny of the unsuitability and unsustainability of 2.500 houses all on green belt and no Transport Plan. Residents in their hundreds have attended information meetings and have overwhelmingly voted against your plans for our area.

You need to be brave and look for a more viable, economic, alternative strategic route.