

I am Sue Grimes, a resident and Parish Councillor on Publow with Pensford Parish Council. The proposals indirectly affect Pensford. Many Pensford residents including myself support Whitchurch Village in opposing them. We have attended the Wrong Road meetings and lodged formal objections. Although I am speaking on behalf of myself, my own Parish Council has registered formal objections.

Pensford is a "conservation village". Our residents care about the environment and do not want to be absorbed into a "Greater Bristol" metropolis.

I am concerned about the effect these proposals will have on our local environment. Road safety was by far the area of greatest concern highlighted in the Neighbourhood Plan. High volumes of commercial and private vehicles already pass through Pensford village on the A37. The village suffers from noise, pollution and bottlenecks on the narrow section of the main A37 on Pensford Hill and a large volume of commuter traffic uses the rural back lanes as rat runs.

Pensford Hill is not wide enough for lorries to pass side by side and sees major bottlenecks when HGVs come face to face with each other and get stuck. It is also a potential health and safety hazard as pedestrians may be hit by HGV wing mirrors, which extend beyond the narrow footpath boundary. The village centre and school also suffer from traffic hazards. B&NES has recently put in traffic calming measures on Pensford Hill. While these are helpful, they could not cope with a huge increase in traffic.

The new ring road will act as a magnet to attract ever more through traffic to pass through Pensford village. The A37 would become the shortest satnav route from the South coast ports of Poole and Weymouth to the northbound motorways and the shortest satnav route to Bristol airport (which already has expansion plans) from the South. Extra vehicles would clearly increase the existing noise, congestion and air pollution levels.

The proposed Park and Ride at Whitchurch will not only destroy existing green belt land but will attract further large volumes of commuter traffic to pass through Pensford to get to it.

We have seen the disruption in Whitchurch Village that just 200 new houses can cause. The numbers now proposed would generate a vast increase in commuter and through traffic, which will inevitably flow on to local rural roads. Such an increase would create an unsustainable situation, which could only be alleviated by building a by-pass for Pensford.

I ask if B&NES could carry out a transportation study to evaluate the likely impact of the proposed ring road on all the villages on A37 corridor to the south of Whitchurch; namely Pensford, Clutton, Temple Cloud and Farrington Gurney. Farrington Gurney and Temple Cloud villages are already Air Quality Management Areas as their air pollution (NO₂) levels already exceed the government's legal maximum.