

Campaign Against the Levels Motorway

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Dramatic new report

On 12th September, Sophie Howe (the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales) published the *Transport Fit for Future Generations* report from a formidable team of experts. This conclusively shows that public transport and active travel alternatives to a bypass are cheaper and a fairer way to meet needs in the Newport transport corridor. The report generated extensive media publicity. CALM has strongly supported the Commissioner's view, with Rob Hepworth, our Chair saying "CALM calls on the Wales Government to face up to the reality that the Black Route is the wrong choice, and to embrace new solutions for the South Wales transport corridor. An urgent task for the next First Minister is to choose a better plan in line with the Commissioner's 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.

September 2018



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Next steps – legal challenge?

CALM is preparing for the release of the Inspector's report on the Public Inquiry. Whilst our case against a new M4 should have readily convinced the Inspector, we have to be prepared for surprises, and be mindful of the limited and skewed remit of the Public Inquiry.

As a result we have established an active legal sub-group and at our meeting in August we took a firm decision to prepare for a Judicial Review in case the Wales Government presses ahead with the Black Route.

We hope that this last resort is not required. Surely the groundswell of concern, combined with mounting evidence and political changes, will mean that the road scheme is scrapped. However, if required, we have a strong and unique case. A specialist barrister joined our last meeting to discuss the issues. We also agree to earmark CALM's funds towards the costs of a legal challenge, which we hope would be led by Gwent Wildlife Trust with the support of CPRW and a range of other NGOs.

Party politics

This is annual conference season, which gives extra opportunities to influence the debate on the M4, now reaching its climax. This year we have the added ingredient of leadership change - Conservative and UKIP have just appointed new leaders, whilst Labour and Plaid Cymru are in the process of electing theirs. Plaid's leader will be announced on 28 September. Labour's election is more protracted but the new leader (and First Minister) is likely to be known by mid November. We hope CALM members who are active in politics will seek assurances from all leaders and candidates about opposing or at least questioning the Black Route and making sure WG take on board the genuine alternatives suggested by Sophie Howe earlier this month.

Next CALM Meeting

The next organising meeting of the campaign is on Monday 1st October, 7pm, Newport Civic Centre. If you're on the meeting mailing list, you'll have already had a notice of the meeting – the agenda will follow soon. If not, email us so we can send you the agenda. Let's have a good attendance please!

Assembly Debate

A full debate on the M4 Black Route has been promised at the Welsh Assembly. When this happens, CALM will hold a demonstration outside The Senedd building to make sure AMs are reminded of our views. We'll be looking to get a big turnout – we ask you to **join us in descending on Cardiff Bay** if you possibly can. We'll let you know as soon as the date of the debate is announced.

CALM leaflets & posters

Can you hand out or deliver any CALM leaflets? Or is there somewhere that should have a poster up and some leaflets? If so please email Jon Winder on boxbush01@btinternet.com.

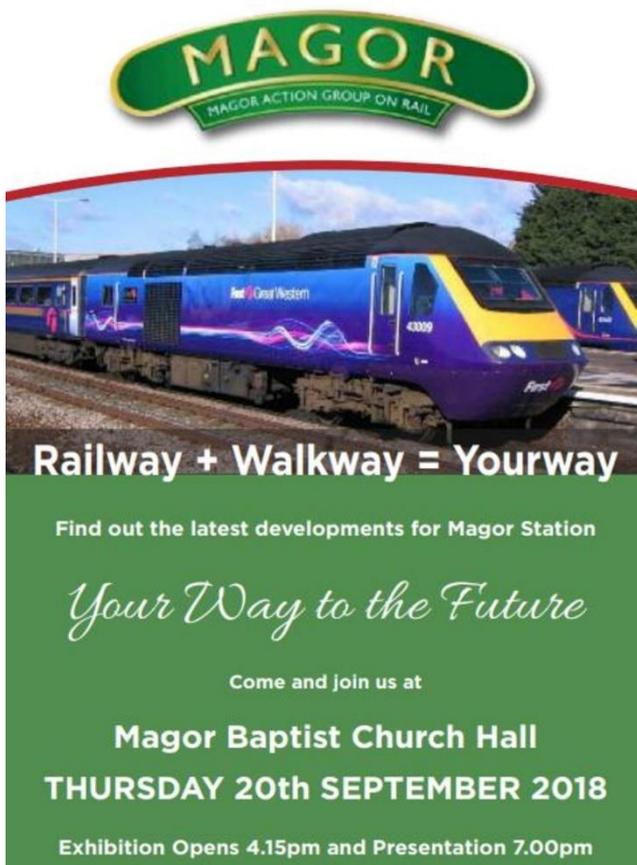
Petitioning the Assembly

About 5,300 of us have signed the 38 Degrees petition. At the end of the month, we are going to submit this to the Welsh Assembly. **If you've not done so already, please sign it NOW!** And is there anything you can do to promote this? The petition can be reached through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/M4petition>.

We have almost five times more signatures than our opponents' petition supporting a new M4.

Magor Station showcase

Thursday this week celebrates progress towards a Magor Station. Come along to Magor Baptist Church Hall at 7pm to hear a range of speakers including Future Generations Commissioner Sophie Howe and John Griffiths AM or drop into the exhibition from 4.15pm.



The poster features a green arched logo at the top with the word 'MAGOR' in white and 'MAGOR ACTION GROUP ON RAIL' in smaller text below it. Below the logo is a photograph of a blue and yellow train on tracks. The text on the poster reads: 'Railway + Walkway = Yourway', 'Find out the latest developments for Magor Station', 'Your Way to the Future' in a cursive font, 'Come and join us at', 'Magor Baptist Church Hall', 'THURSDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2018', and 'Exhibition Opens 4.15pm and Presentation 7.00pm'.

Write to your Assembly Members

After 25 years of our fight, this is **the** most critical time for the campaign. There is no better time to write to your Constituency Assembly Member and four 'list' AMs now – find their details through the **Take Action** page of the CALM website – www.savethelevels.org.uk/TakeAction.

And are you willing to contact them, to ask for a meeting? This needs to be an issue high on the agenda of every AM across Wales so please tell them you think **#NoNewM4** is so vital! Email savethegwentlevels@gmail.com now to be sent a sample letter to help you compose what you want to say.

How can you get more involved?

We need your help now. There are so many vital tasks to make sure we have **#NoNewM4**, from helping with publicity, lobbying the Welsh Assembly, preparing for our demonstration at the Assembly's debate, to fundraising for a legal challenge – if it comes to that.

Please contact us on social media or email savethegwentlevels@gmail.com to offer your help. Whatever you can think of will be vital. More people giving more time will stop this motorway madness. Lastly, if you've not had this newsletter emailed directly to you, then you are not on our mailing list. We'd love to add you – get in touch!

Social media

The CALM facebook and twitter accounts are great places for you to say why you are against a new M4. We are **@CalmCampaign** on twitter. To find us on facebook please visit <https://tinyurl.com/NoNewM4fb>. See you there!

Read the latest CALM press release

Last week we used the media to call on the Welsh Govt to 'blow the whistle' on the New M4, highlighting the collapsing case for the new road and our new campaign materials. The press release is on our website – to go straight to the document visit: <https://tinyurl.com/CALMrelease>

Do you look at Welsh news online?

Stories about the M4 always get a lot of attention. If you look at Welsh news websites, why not use the online comment sections to give your views on M4 stories? So many drivers don't understand that more roads generate more congestion, whilst if they are stuck in a traffic jam, their vehicles are part of the problem. See what they are posting in response. Encourage them to start calling for affordable, frequent public transport for everyone.

New roads create *induced traffic*. This means that every traffic bottleneck in South Wales – be that the Brynglas Tunnels, the A48 into Cardiff or that busy junction in your town – is a sign that the answer to congestion is more public transport **not more roads**. Many people don't or can't drive, so it is only public transport that can meet everyone's travel needs.



© CALM, September 2018. With thanks to everyone who is doing so much to ensure a better future for the Gwent Levels, local people & wildlife, Wales & the world.