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Proposed Main Road along Route of Railway Embankment through Latchford, Grappenhall and Thelwall

I am concerned to hear about the proposed strategic public transport route through Latchford, Grappenhall and Thelwall.

The plan gives the appearance of having been proposed by someone who has looked at the aerial view of the district, but shows no understanding either of the local topography or the levels of congestion in Latchford.

To turn the railway embankment into a road would require effort, money and disruption on an enormous scale. It would be comparable with motorway construction or digging out the local stretch of the Manchester Ship Canal. If the road surface was to go on top of the embankment, the necessary widening would result in a loss of houses on either side, including the flats at Clearwater Quays, some of which are still being built. A new bridge would be necessary at a high level over the Ship Canal with all the problems of bridge construction without blocking the ships passing underneath. It appears that a further bridge would be needed to cross the Bridgewater Canal.

Although the diagram is imprecise, it appears that the new road would link in with the ASO at Latchford. If that is so, there would be no actual gain in having the new road, as traffic would be simply joining in at the current pinch point in Latchford. The net result would be no reduction in congestion levels. If the road didn't connect at Latchford, but went all the way to Warrington, presumably a new wide bridge would need to be put in over the ASO, with all the disruption that would entail, at the worst possible point for traffic.

In short, this scheme is clearly no answer to improving traffic flows and has the potential to create massive unnecessary disruption in an area that cannot take it.

Warrington Garden City Suburb

I am shocked to see the plans for so much housing in the Grappenhall and Appleton districts given the rural character of the area and the road congestion which we already have. I also object to green belt land being released, when this goes against the whole point of having a green belt.

My main objections are firstly to do with infrastructure problems. I fear that the existing facilities won't be adequate. There would also be a shortage of school places, medical services and I wonder if the existing sewerage system can cope with this.

Secondly, I do not consider that the roads are adequate to cope with so many extra cars and as I have already explained, the proposed new road on the line of the railway embankment is a non-starter. As the motorways are blocking with increasing frequency, to add potentially so many extra cars so near the Junction 20 exit is surely inadvisable.

Again, this appears to be a very ill thought out scheme, riding roughshod over the local community. The plans appear to have been kept very quiet, with little time for consultation and comment.

