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Further to your recent reports about the issue of the proposed redevelopment plans for Warrington, local Latchford residents have inevitably been alarmed and outraged at the proposal to convert the existing rail embankment into a major road from the motorway to Bridgefoot.

This proposal has caused considerable anxiety among a minority of residents who have recently become aware of this, but the majority of local people will still be unaware of the proposed plan.

We had previously been assured by Mr. Hans Mundry, our local councillor, that any development plans for the embankment would be shared with local residents and consultation held prior to publication. The reality is that the peak of the holiday season seems to have been carefully selected to exclude and diminish awareness of these plans.

Latchford, because it has no local parish council, is disadvantaged by its lack of representation. It is one of the poorer areas of the town with a high ratio of rented properties.

Publicity needs to be promptly given to make local people aware of the full implications of current proposals and that they now have an opportunity to put their views across at local consultation events. Time here is of the essence.

Property values could be severely affected and there is a real threat of compulsory purchase, yet there has been no local consultation.

The impact of turning the embankment into a major road would be devastating to residents and the environment. There would be a considerable loss of trees and natural habitation in an area which is already severely lacking in green space.

The consequent increase of traffic and pollution would have a major impact on the environment and the health and well-being of residents.

To date there has been NO consultation held in the Latchford, Thelwall and Grappenhall areas where the railway embankment lies.

Time is running out to make local residents aware of the real extent of the proposed development and only two consultation dates remain. One is on Monday 4TH September at the Park Royal Hotel 3pm-8pm where Faisal Rashid MP will be in attendance. The final consultation event is on 7th September at the Pyramid Centre 3-8pm.

