

As a member of Llangattock Community Council, I have received an email from Ann Picton re the above. We are unable to send a group response within the time limit but I do feel very strongly about this. It is a pity that we were not alerted to this matter earlier.

Environmentally it will be disasterous. We should not be building on flood plains, which this clearly is, and the delicate eco-system of the Gwent levels will be destroyed. They are a fairly unique environment and historic too. with almost 70% of the proposed route affecting SSSI's, what is the point of designating such areas if they can be developed wholesale? Moreover, parts are Landscapes of Historic Interest or Special Areas of Conservation, even 'Protected Areas' If these are not safe, what is?

The cost will be prohibitive - who will pay?? Wales already has to complete the Heads of the Valleys without certain European funding, since 'our' decision to leave the EU. The huge costs will no doubt be shared across Wales and I believe all areas will suffer. Rural areas, such as ours, have already had to bear huge local government cuts which impact directly on services. The hugely expensive Heads of the Valleys has had to pay attention to environmental factors, greatly increasing the expense, but there was not such a clear alternative.

It is some time since the Blue Route was suggested and this seems a much better option all round - less disruptive, protecting the Gwent levels, reducing congestion, and much cheaper. When there is a feasible alternative, it is madness to continue with plans for the Black route.

Ann Williams