

WEST OF ENGLAND COMBINED AUTHORITY COMMITTEE – 26 JANUARY 2024

Petition received from Cllr Andrew Varney – 1833 signatories:

Save the Brislington Greenway

The West of England Combined Authority is proposing to build a new road along the former Brislington Railway Line, known locally as the Brislington Greenway.

Over the last 60 years, the Greenway has become a wildlife haven, with regular sightings of bats, badgers and slow worms, all of which are protected species. Building a new road would destroy this space.

Our alternative proposal is an active travel corridor, providing a safe, pleasant, off-road route all the way from Temple Meads to Whitchurch and beyond. This green space would become a real community asset and do a lot more to promote sustainable travel than building a new road!"

The following response has been provided under Standing Order A13.4H

"We acknowledge the petition you presented at the January 2024 Committee meeting regarding the proposals for the A4 between Bristol and Bath.

We are looking closely at the opportunities that the whole corridor could offer, and the recent engagement has provided much to consider. We have listened and will be considering all perspectives to make sure we create the best solution for transport in the future, for both Brislington and the West of England.

We understand that there are local concerns about some aspects of the scheme, but we would like to re-iterate that the Brislington Railway Line proposals are at a very early stage in project development, and that nothing is yet set in stone. Before the development of any long-term options, a number of surveys and assessments would need to take place, along with the production of a business case to secure further funding.

Ahead of this, in the next stage of the project, we are looking to progress some of what we referred to as "Short Term Changes" in the recent engagement. To enable this we will be conducting further surveys and monitoring, including a thorough examination of any impact on wildlife to help us finalise the best course of action.

We are committed to engaging with local communities while we continue our assessments. We intend to hold engagement events over the coming months and would be pleased to invite you to represent the community and take part in discussions, in addition to briefing yourself and your fellow councillors on progress."