

From: [REDACTED]
To: [NWL Planning](#)
Cc: [Norwich Society](#); [Norwich Society](#)
Subject: North West Link - Objection of The Norwich Society
Date: 20 August 2024 17:50:12

WARNING: External email, think before you click!

Good afternoon,

This morning I received an Email from **NWL Planning** asking me to resend the Norwich Society's objection to the North Western Link by email. This objection had been posted by me online yesterday.

Here again is the text of that objection:

The Norwich Society wishes to **object** to the granting of planning permission for the construction of the Norwich Western Link Road, for the following reasons:

1. New road building within the Greater Norwich area could only be justified if it is set within a fully integrated and sustainable transport strategy for this city region and if it is accompanied by a comprehensive set of action plans which have a realistic prospect of implementation across the board. This is not the case at the present time.

The County Council's Transport for Norwich Strategy (2021) ought to be providing a sustainable way forward, but in practice the County Council's action planning has devoted a hugely disproportionate volume of its attention and resources to the Western Link Road alone. Little progress is being made in many other essential transport areas, where much is currently unfunded.

2. The construction of the Western Link Road, without other essential transport initiatives, would be a seriously retrograde step. It would actively discourage the modal shift towards public transport and active travel that is urgently required, both to tackle climate change and to promote healthier lifestyles.

3. If the Link Road did indeed proceed in isolation, any predicted reductions in traffic congestion and air pollution within the city itself would prove to be of only temporary benefit. It is now widely understood from decades of experience that the road would itself stimulate new car-based journeys and bring about renewed vehicular congestion in time.

4. The evidence does not support the assertion that a Link Road of this magnitude is essential for the economic wellbeing of Greater Norwich, nor that it is the most cost-effective means of stimulating economic prosperity. It would, for example, encourage longer distance car-based commuting out of Greater Norwich as much as into it. The future economic success of Greater Norwich will rely at least as much on the development of enhanced public transport systems providing frequent, cheap and reliable access for all and the further development of attractive and safe cycle and walking routes.

5. Numerous expert bodies have highlighted the environmentally destructive

nature of any major new road which intrudes into the sensitive Wensum flood plain. The Norwich Society does not have confidence that the proposed mitigation measures would prove really effective in practice.

The Norwich Society recognises that there is a need to find solutions to the problems that have been created by the construction of an incomplete northern distributor road and that this may require at least a measure of road construction and further traffic management measures as part of an integrated transport solution. Rat-running car traffic is undoubtedly blighting the lives of some communities and necessary heavy goods vehicle movements are similarly being forced onto totally inappropriate rural lanes. Solutions to these issues can surely be found by more modest measures, without the damage that the present plans pose to the environment of the Wensum valley.

The Norwich Society calls upon the County Council to withdraw the current planning application and to engage with the new Secretary of State for Transport and with local communities on alternative plans that would prove both more environmentally sustainable and substantially more cost effective than the envisaged Link.

To clarify, I am a trustee of The Norwich Society and Chairman of the Society's Strategic Planning and Transport Committee.

My understanding is that you already have the Norwich Society logged as a formal consultee on such strategic planning issues and that you normally notify us and receive comments back from us via the Society's Chief Administrator, [REDACTED], at norwicksoc@outlook.com

This arrangement should continue. Yesterday's posting of our objection via your dedicated webpage was in order to meet the deadline during [REDACTED] temporary absence.

If you require any further clarification on this matter, please do contact me.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]