

We know how important the impact of the road is to residents.

In the next newsletter we will be focusing in depth on the transport issues and benefits of the scheme.

We will also be looking at the projected improvement in air quality using the latest research.

The new road has been forecast to bring in 7,960 jobs into the county, with 3,500 being created in Torbay. 750 of these jobs would be in tourism, which is one of Torbay's biggest sectors at 17% - twice the national average. The road would help to make Torbay's economy more resilient as well as opening up opportunities for growth.

* More information on the ERS research can be found at www.southdevonlinkroad.co.uk

Looking after the land

One of the key concerns has been the potential impact of a new road on the environment. Kerswell Down is a tranquil and attractive area, and understandably there has been some anxiety about how the road will affect the plants, animals and birds – as well as local people's ability to enjoy the scenery.

As a result, Devon County Council and Torbay Council have been working with Natural England on ways to minimise the influence of the road on both wildlife and humans. An Environmental Impact Assessment has been carried out to identify the types of wildlife and plant life in the area. As a result, measures have been put in place to protect these species. These include new roosts for lesser horseshoe bats, new spawning pools for fish and helping the RSPB to buy part of Labrador Bay to be managed as a wildlife area.



The scheme itself has been designed to make the most of the natural landscape, using cuttings where possible, to screen it from local communities and limiting views of the road. At some points, noise banks will be built to reduce road noise and to shield views. Pictures of the road and how it will look from various points, along with more information about this can be found on the website (southdevonlinkroad.co.uk). They will also be in large scale at the exhibitions.

Where to find out more

Frequently asked questions are on the southdevonlinkroad.co.uk website, but if you think there's information that we need to cover, please let us know.

How can I contribute?

Your opinion counts! We want to hear from you – and even if you are not in agreement with the scheme, it's still important that we know why. You can let us know what you think by writing to us at:

Paul Ewings, Devon County Council, Matford Offices, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QD, or emailing sdlr@coastmarcoms.co.uk

NEWS UPDATE

South Devon Link Road Project

Devon
County Council



Welcome to your update on the South Devon Link Road Project

As one of the longest running schemes in the country, it's important that people are kept informed, so we hope that you will find this useful.

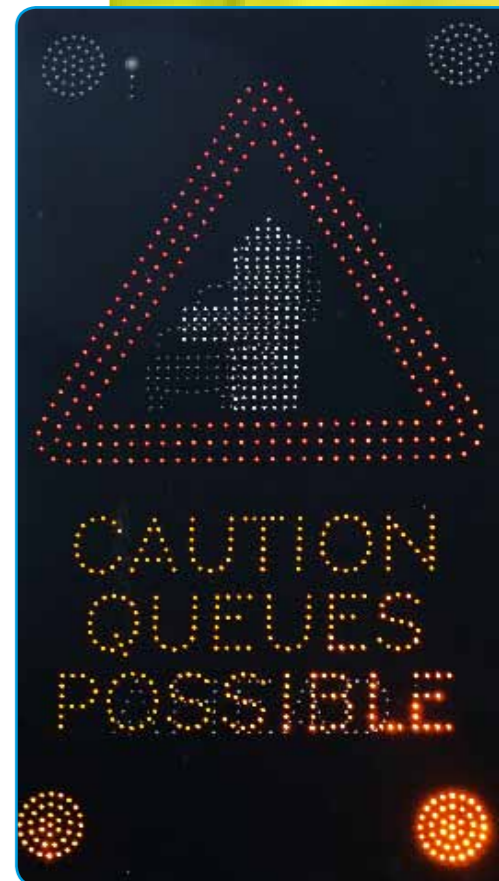
Here's an update on what's happened up to now, and the next steps before the decision to go ahead can be made. The Torbay Development Agency outlines the business case, whilst there's more information on the scheme's contribution to the local economy. We've covered some of the environmental work that's been going on, and most importantly - there's a date for your diaries: the latest exhibitions to update local communities on the scheme's progress begin on 20 June.

The project is at a critical point when we are finalising our case for the road and competing for funding with other transport schemes. We very much hope that there will be a successful outcome, but there's a lot of work to be done before then. There's more information how you can have your say and contribute later on in this newsletter.

If you have any questions, comments or would like more information, please contact us: **Email: sdlr@coastmarcoms.co.uk** or write to: **Paul Ewings, Devon County Council, Matford Offices, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QW**

Don't let Devon go to waste

Once you have finished with this newsletter, please pass on to anyone who may be interested or recycle it.





What's happened so far?

The long road to building the bypass...

- 1951 Bypass route shown on County Development Plan by Devon County Council
- 1977 Public consultation for alternative route and route adopted
- 1987 Public exhibitions of detailed scheme drawings
- 1989 Government take on delivery of the scheme as part of their trunk roads programme
- 1996 Scheme abandoned by the Government
- 2002 Devon County Council and Torbay Council carry out Public Consultation for a reduced scheme
- 2005 Planning consent granted
- 2007 First bid for major scheme funding
- 2008 Compulsory Purchase Orders made
- 2009 Public Inquiry – no outcome has been published as yet
- 2009 Tenders invited for the construction contract
- 2009 Government Spending Review – all transport schemes suspended
- 2010 Scheme is placed in the development pool for consideration with 45 other schemes
- 2011 9 September – Final funding bid to Department for Transport
- 2011 December – decision made

So what are the next steps?

Paul Ewings, Devon County Council Project Manager explains:

"The Department for Transport has asked that both councils put together a final funding bid, showing why the road is needed, and verifying support from the local community, business and road users. It will also take into account objections to the scheme; there are still some people who would prefer it didn't go ahead.

This bid will compete for government funding with 45 other projects nationally.

To help answer any questions and provide an update, we are holding exhibitions (see timetable overleaf) along the route. This will give people a chance to question the project engineers, and to collect any feedback.

In addition, there are other groups arranging events, briefings and campaigns, to create support for the scheme and demonstrate its importance to the Government. Over the last few years, backing from the community has been really crucial, so we need one last push to show just how much this scheme matters to people."



Exhibition dates:

- 20 June** Riviera Conference Centre, Torquay 2pm - 8pm
- 21 June** Kingskerswell Primary School 4pm - 8pm
- 22 June** Old Forde House, Newton Abbot 3pm - 8pm
- 25 June** Union Square Shopping Centre, Torquay 10am - 4pm
- 27 June** St Luke's Church Hall, Milber, Newton Abbot 4pm - 8pm

John Richards, Torbay Development Agency Chairman writes:

"Torbay is well known as a great place to live, work and visit; and has many benefits as a place to invest. But we all can see that it lacks adequate road links with the UK's major transport infrastructure. This may not matter to every individual, day to day, but it matters a lot to businesses trying to prosper in these tough times. So we should all understand that the South Devon Link Road is a critical success factor in putting Torbay on the map as a leading European business destination with an excellent commercial proposition.

"We have found that manufacturing, service companies and retailers considering investing in the area - potentially bringing much needed jobs - are repeatedly put off by the lack of a good road link, which can result in them deciding to locate elsewhere, despite the higher costs.

"Even more important is the need to prevent existing companies from moving out of the Bay due to increasing problems with the congestion, choosing logistics over all the other good points of being in the Bay, such as the recent decision by local drinks firm Beverage Brands to re-locate to Gloucester.

"There are thriving companies which successfully balance the limited

transport infrastructure with the overriding benefits of investing in Torbay - which include excellent skills, competitive costs and an unrivalled quality of life - helping to attract and retain a committed workforce. However, if we are to convince other companies to come and Be Part of a Brighter Bay, the South Devon Link Road is a priority."

The economics of the case

- One in three children in the Bay is brought up below the poverty line.
- Torbay's wage economy is 379th out of 380 in the country.
- Crete, Czech Republic, Malta and Sardinia all have a greater economic output than Torbay.

These facts were outlined in a recent piece of research by ERS*, and show how the lack of access is limiting economic growth in the Bay. With 134,000 people reliant on the road to get in and out, and even more traffic bringing in supplies, workers, shoppers, tourists and students, the road is under extreme pressure. It can't take any more traffic than it already does, so growth can't happen.

Employers and businesses are clear that they need reliable and dependable transport networks. And without it, some of them are being forced to relocate, taking valuable jobs with them.

