



This press release is from the Temple to Bodmin A30 Action Group and is for immediate release.

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Senior Executives from the South West Regional Assembly meet with the A30 Action Group

Tuesday 29th April 2008

On Thursday 24 April 2008, three officials from the A30 Action Group committee met with senior members of the Regional Assembly, Julian Johnson - Chairman, SW Transport Board; Chris Mitchell - Assistant Director, Transport and Planning and Doris Ansari – a fellow member of the Assembly's Executive Committee and Chairman of Cornwall County Council.

The main purpose of the meeting was to convey the depth of feeling from local residents and commerce to the decision to abandon the proposed dual carriageway improvement to the section of road at Temple. Since the Group met with the Transport Minister, Tom Harris last November they have been working towards the meeting with Assembly members to discuss the apparent flawed decision by the Assembly to delay the improvements until at least 2016.

Mick Martin said, "After our meeting with the Transport Minister we were advised to take our case direct to the Regional Assembly as they hold all the keys to the appropriate funding allocation for this road improvement to be re-prioritised. It is all a matter of raising the profile of the Temple scheme above the many others all vying for the same funding throughout the South West region."

After the presentation the Group had a discussion concerning the factors affecting the decision making process. Mick Martin commented, "There was a frank exchange of views concerning the funding priorities and also the economic factors affecting Cornwall as a result of the road improvement not going ahead. Unfortunately it now appears more work will have to be done by the Group to take our campaign forward to the Regional Development Agency."

The Group were also advised that the priorities for the regional funding allocation are soon to be reviewed by an independent consultative group, which may result in a different set of criteria for the funding allocation.

Concerns were also expressed about the recent Regional Spatial Strategy report that covers regeneration plans for Cornwall and proposed major housing developments in both Bodmin and Launceston that omits to mention anything about improving the road at Temple! Remarkably this report, covering planning expectations throughout the region for the next twenty plus years was actually published by the Regional Assembly.

Finally Mick Martin said, "Realistically we were not expecting to come away with a decision on the day; but rest assured the profile of the A30 at Temple was raised at the Assembly. The two senior transport members were left under no illusions how we felt about the flawed decision made by the Assembly in 2006. With more traffic than ever on our roads and visitor numbers already over 5 million and increasing year on year wherever will we be in 2016 and beyond?"

The Temple to Bodmin A30 Action Group still needs your support. Visit the website at www.dualthea30now.co.uk to get the latest news and information on how you as an individual or business based in Cornwall can help to make this happen.

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All editors:

Please contact me if you need any further information or wish to arrange interviews.

Regards

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