

My name is Chris Mills, I have lived in Sycamore Drive, Patchway overlooking Highwood Road for 24 years and contrary to the general belief, the residents of Patchway have been raising their concerns reference the closure of Highwood Road for many years, the proof of this can be found on your own South Gloucestershire web site, I refer to the annual councillor statements from 2 former Patchway Ward councillors to this council.

To quote from their statements

In 2008-2009

COUNCILLOR Dr Graupner

Residents' complaints that I have dealt with have been concerned with-

The possible, impending closure of Highwood Road to traffic due to the development of Charlton Hayes.

The same year COUNCILLOR Dando wrote

The new development on the airfield (Charlton Hayes) and the closing of a part of Highwood Road is causing a lot of local concern and is something I am keeping under constant review

The following year 2009-2010

COUNCILLOR Dando wrote

The closure of Highwood Road and the planned bus lane is of concern to many local residents and I spend a lot of time reassuring them that the new road layout will work

Yet that same year COUNCILLOR Graupner writes

The Charlton Hayes project includes the closure of Highwood Road to cars.

This is causing much grief to a section of Patchway residents because there is no realistic alternative route for cars to a local shopping centre. It is difficult to tell them that this is for the greater good.

This appears to fly in the face of Councillors Dando's statement that the new road layout will work.

I also have a copy of a letter sent from the Town Council to a Mr P Jackson, Director of Planning and Transport in June of 2008, in short the letter states over 150 residents attended the Annual Town meeting in 2008 and unanimously passed a resolution stating

"This meeting strongly opposes the closure of Highwood Road and the effect this will have on increasing the traffic in Coniston Road and demands a meeting with officers of SGC so that they can hear the views of the people of Patchway"

The Town council were informed that Officers don't attend public meetings, but SGC arranged a display for residents to attend, I personally attended the annual meeting but was not informed of the display and the display took place in the Baptists church in the Stoke Lodge ward of Patchway, why was it held there, not in Patchway Community Centre or even the Casson centre where the annual meeting had taken place.

To overcome objections from Patchway residents Bovis appeared to offer a compromise with a gated exit from Sycamore Drive into Charlton Hayes, allowing residents only to gain access to Rodway Road and the A38, but when the final plans for the "linear Park" were released this olive branch to Patchway residents had been removed.

We have been asked why are you supporting a road and against a Park;

The Linear Park Bovis are creating is nothing more than a wide grass verge between the houses they are building and what's left of Highwood Road, A park should be an area where our children can play, people can meet, but an email from Health & Safety Executive dated 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2011 to Sarah Tucker reference the Major Hazard pipeline that runs through the site appears to dismiss the idea that this is a park I quote:

"This development has been described within PADHI+ as a linear park and identified as outdoor use by the public which is likely to attract between 100 and 1,000 people at any one time, resulting in a Sensitivity Level of SL3. More than 10% of the development has been identified as being within the inner zone, with the result that HSE advised against the granting of planning permission.

It continues:

However, from the details in the planning application, the main development seems to be the changes to the highway design to create a bus-only transport route, with associated landscaping, paving, etc. I think that it is more appropriate to treat this development as a transport link; the associated open space for pedestrians and car parking does not include any particular attractions which are likely to lead to people gathering in numbers for a period of time":

The HSE have clearly dismissed this linear park idea and would have been against granting planning permission if it was indeed a park

In the opinion of myself and others, the consultation process used by SGC for the closing of Highwood Road is flawed, sending out post cards with planning application numbers on, expecting everyone to have internet access is extremely hit and miss, the advert that went into the evening post on 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2010 reads:

PT10/3159/RM Charlton Hayes Northfield, Filton Aerodrome, Creation of 5.49Ha of Linear Park comprising infrastructure highway design, landscaping paving materials and street

furniture, Approval of reserved matters (to be read in conjunction with outline planning permission PT03/3143/0)

This notice made no mention of closing the road, or the removal of the gated access from Sycamore across to Charlton Hayes, and again if you wanted to see more you had to look online.

The only time SGC put out its large yellow signs was to consult on speed limits and waiting times for a road it had already decided would close. It took a freedom of information request 5 months after this consultation closed, to get the results of the second consultation which included 45 objections, but by which time the contractor had already started work on Highwood Road.

SGC are at this time considering the Malls request to expand by up to 60% with a proportional increase in traffic, if the airfield also closes, this could result in 8,000 plus homes all using Hayes Way to get in and out of Charlton Hayes and the Airfield site, If you decide to shut Highwood Road even for a temporary 18 month period, you are inviting the gridlock Patchway used to have before Hayes way was opened, only this time it will be the back streets of Patchway that are blocked. The changes to the core strategy since the original decision was taken to close Highwood road leaves the plan flawed and hopelessly out of date.

The local shops in Rodway Road are at present reporting a drop in footfall because of the road works, if the proposal to shut the road is passed there is a risk that some of the shops could close.

At present my neighbour takes her children to a School in Stoke Lodge, using Highwood Road, it's a 1.2 mile journey each way, if Highwood road is closed it becomes a 2.5 mile journey around Coniston Road or a 3 mile journey using Hayes way.

A short journey to Rodway Road shops, the library, Community centre, Patchway Clinic or the new Hub for residents who live in the Birds and Trees area of Patchway will more than double in length, and the only viable route is to use Coniston Road and rat run through Patchway, A trip to the Dentist and shops at Patchway roundabout will triple in length.

Any parent taking their child to school from Cat Brain Lane and the new houses in that area will be forced to drive through the back streets of Patchway to gain access to Callicroft School in Rodway Road.

Residents who live near Patchway Roundabout, Stoke Lodge or even the northern part of Little Stoke wanting to go to the Mall will face a choice, travel South on the A38 to Hayes way, North on the A38 to the M5 or drive around Patchway using Coniston Road. This is not environmentally or neighbourhood friendly

The residents of Patchway have been opposed to the closure of Highwood Road since before 2008, As shown by the councillor statements written by our previous Lib Dem District councillors, the residents were offered an olive branch by Bovis late in the planning process, but this was removed at the 11 hour, Their voices have not been heard by both the Council or previous District Council, since the petition was launched councillors from all 3 parish wards across the political parties that make up Patchway Town Council have actively canvased residents to sign the petition and have attended both the public demonstration held on Highwood Road and the public meeting held in the community centre, We have collected signatures from every road and street in Patchway across all 3 parish wards including Charlton Hayes, This is not a party political petition, no party's logo or name appears on the petition paperwork, this is not even a Patchway Town Council petition, this is a petition from over 4100 residents, predominately from Patchway. The political parties in this room will have to work together to keep this road open, if that happens then everyone concerned will have listened to the residents of South Gloucestershire who signed this petition

Please don't turn this into a political battle

*On behalf of the 4137 people who signed the petition I ask:*

**You the Council to open the proposed two way bus lane on Highwood Road to non-commercial traffic as well as buses ie cars/ motorcycles and keep the proposed 20 MPH limit.**

Thank you