



Campaign Against the Levels Motorway
Website: www.savethelevels.org.uk

NEWSLETTER – November 2008

From the Chairman

The campaign against the motorway continues to gain momentum, after the wonderful turn-out at the Cardiff Bay demo earlier in the Autumn. We have growing political support, and the upcoming decision on the New M4 is now being widely recognised as the key test of the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to sustainable development. We need investment that benefits people and the environment, over the long-term.

We do need your support. This newsletter mentions a range of ways that you could get involved. Signing the petition against the New M4 is quick and easy. Even more important is to tell your Assembly Member what you think. Contact your local constituency AM, and the four 'list' AMs who cover your corner of Wales. Ring the Gwent Wildlife Trust office on 01600 740600 if you want help with how to do this, or visit the CALM website at www.savethelevels.org.uk. Make sure you also let Ieuan Wyn Jones, Transport Minister, know what you think – and do it now!

We have a golden opportunity to make the Assembly invest think again. We mustn't allow this road to be built. It will be a short-sighted and hugely expensive white elephant, which will make transport problems worse elsewhere, whilst destroying wildlife-rich tranquil countryside which is much-loved by local people.

Please get in touch and get active! - Julian Branscombe (jbranscombe@gwentwildlife.org)

The CALM protest at the Senedd

on Tuesday 23rd September was a great event. Over 200 demonstrators turned out, despite apologies and best wishes from a huge list of people who couldn't get along, as it was a week day. The CALM colours were much in evidence, and protestors enjoyed talking to the six Assembly Members who came out.



Julian Branscombe and family with A.M. John Griffiths

There was excellent media coverage on ITV Wales, BBC Wales, in all the Welsh press, and in *Planning* magazine. CALM Chair, Julian Branscombe, and Newport East Assembly Member, John Griffiths, both spoke to the crowd. Everyone left with fresh resolve to press home our message. The Welsh Assembly Government needs to think again about the devastating road proposal, which will be such an expensive and ineffective way to deal with our transport problems.

(Photos courtesy of www.creatingmedia.co.uk, South Wales' first green web & graphic design company)

Publicity for CALM

Articles on the campaign are being published this winter in the **Natur Cymru** magazine, and **Agenda**, the magazine of the Institute of Welsh Affairs. It is hoped that the **Agenda** article will be particularly influential, as in it Julian Branscombe tackles the strong, but deeply questionable, lobby of groups such as the Welsh CBI, who claim that a new M4 is vital to South Wales' economic future.

The CALM Facebook group now has over 260 members. If you want to join the group, go to <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=26900967173>

The CALM Petition

The CALM petition is up and running. Paper copies of the petition are being collated at the Wildlife Trusts office, whilst the CALM website at www.savethelevels.org.uk has a link straight to it. The petition states:

We, the undersigned, believe that a motorway across the Gwent Levels would damage important wildlife sites, destroy quality of life and sense of place for local residents, and contradict the Assembly Government's own commitments to tackle climate change and halt biodiversity loss.

We therefore call upon the Welsh Assembly Government to drop the plans for the new M4 and to seek a sustainable solution to south east Wales' transport issues.

To go straight to the online petition, go to www.gopetition.com/petitions/no-new-m4

Lobbying

Got any spare time? Get in touch with your local AMs (see the www.savethelevels.org.uk or ring GWT on 01600 740600 if you need help in doing this).

Can you offer other help?

Please get in touch with Sorrel Jones at the GWT office (sjones@gwentwildlife.org) if you can help in any other way – could you deliver leaflets, organise events or draft press releases?

Can you offer your Expertise?

We need help with expertise to challenge the Assembly's Outline Business Case for the road which is expected in 2008. This will involve input on everything from archaeology and ecology, to sustainability, the Assembly policy context, economics, cost-benefit analysis, transport alternatives, and the implications on congestion elsewhere in Wales which would result from encouraging more traffic past Newport.

Talks to Groups

Would your group like to hear more about the motorway proposals? Members of CALM can give a presentation about the potential impacts. Please contact CALM for more information.

CALM Committee Meeting

All are welcome at the next CALM meeting, booked by Gwent Wildlife Trust and held at Newport Civic Centre, 7pm, Wednesday 19th November.

Get in Touch with CALM:

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