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A4 Cycleway

We are distressed to learn that Buckinghamshire County Council intend to continue with the proposed A4 cycleway through Taplow essentially unchanged, despite large scale measured objections. We do not object to the cycleway in principle but raised three objections in particular that we believe make the scheme unviable. Two are concerns for users' safety on this mixed use two way cycle/footpath – when passing under the narrow railway bridge and further along collisions with motorists emerging from their drives. The third is the gross disturbance to local residents (and extra A4 mileage) from the banning of right turns into Berry Hill. The associated claimed traffic flow improvements are derisory to non-existent.

It appears to have taken BCC over six months to realise these objections cannot be overcome within the proposed route. The Royal Borough has withdrawn from the scheme. We are clear therefore that it should be abandoned. Their apparent insistence in continuing is likely to be based in political embarrassment. They have already spent £300k (which took a Freedom of Information request to find out) that will have to be written off. Their reputation with the relevant funding bodies will suffer as it reflects on their judgement and individual councillors will also be embarrassed.

These are totally indefensible grounds for continuing. If BCC is so confident in its policy it must agree to attend a public meeting to defend its case against these criticisms. So far they have absolutely refused to do so. This is the unacceptable face of local government.

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