



Leicester
City Council

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORT AND TOURISM
SCRUTINY COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2019

AGENDA ITEM 6 – EVESHAM ROAD LINK

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

As noted in the Agenda pages for the above Commission meeting, written representations in respect of the Evesham Road Link were requested before 12:00 noon on Friday 11 October 2019.

Please find attached details of the representations received, beginning with a submission from The End of the Road campaign, Leicester Friends of the Earth and Footpaths: Routes to a greener future.

Addresses and/or email contact details were supplied by objectors.

Officer contact:

Jason Tyler (Democratic Support Officer):

Tel: 0116 454 6359, e-mail: Jason.Tyler@leicester.gov.uk

Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Submission about a new road over the river Soar along the North edge of Aylestone Meadows. From The End of the Road campaign, Leicester Friends of the Earth and Footpaths: Routes to a greener future.

At the moment the council does not have funding or a current plan to build this road. However:

- It is in the Local Plan as a red line on a map. The Local Plan Emerging Options reference documents says these red lines are: (Paragraph 8.19) A list of potential highway improvement lines and schemes has been developed over many years. These lines / schemes should be reviewed to consider if they remain fit for purpose for inclusion for safeguarding purposes in the new Local Plan.... Such as land protected for a link between Narborough Road and Saffron Lane involving a bridge link across the River Soar. In other words, work which the council might do in the future.
- The City Mayor has been very clear in the past that he would like to see this road built. He says he is not planning to build it at the moment, but continues to speak about it as a positive thing. We've also had reports from various people that they have personally heard both Sir Peter Soulsby and Deputy Mayor Adam Clark say that the road will exist in the next 10-15 years.
- In the council's funding bid for the opening of Putney Rd, signed by Adam Clarke, it says: "Leicester City Council is considering a future scheme whereby Evesham Road would be extended to provide a direct link (new vehicular bridge over River Soar and canal) between the A426 Aylestone Road and the A5460 Narborough Road and M1/J21....The Putney Road link would greatly enhance the viability of building the Evesham Road link." Putney Road has since been approved.

We do not want this road built now or in the future for many reasons:

- This road would increase the air pollution around 3 schools with over 1600 pupils between them. In the case of St Mary's Fields it would almost certainly take the air pollution over the E.U.'s legal limit for Nitrogen Dioxide.
- Road building doesn't work to relieve congestion. It makes it worse as it encourages additional car use, inducing more traffic.
- Air pollution has many very damaging health impacts. It is additionally damaging for people living in low income areas and households. Over 30% of the households in Leicester do not have a car. Building new roads means the more privileged car owners produce more air pollution which impacts most heavily on the least well off.
- Many low income families from Saffron and Braunstone use Aylestone Meadows as a place to swim, walk and get away from pollution. They will suffer disproportionately as the air pollution in Aylestone Meadows gets worse due to this road.
- It will damage the community spirit which exists in the areas it would cut through, for example on Evesham Rd and Boundary Rd.
- The road would damage the Northern edge of Aylestone Meadows and the green corridor it connects to. This green corridor is vitally important for wildlife.

As the commission responsible for scrutinising both transport and the Local Plan, please would you recommend to the City Executive that:

- ♦ **The red line which could turn into this road is removed from the Local Plan.**
- ♦ **The council makes a formal commitment not to build this road in the next 30 years.**

Induced Traffic

Induced traffic is the term used to describe an increase in traffic which results from building new roads. Congestion discourages people from driving. When it becomes easier to drive, people drive more.

Both government reports and scientific research show this to be a real effect.

A government report from 1994 stated:

“some schemes, such as a new river crossing in the heart of a congested urban area with high capacity approaches could induce significant amounts of extra traffic.”¹

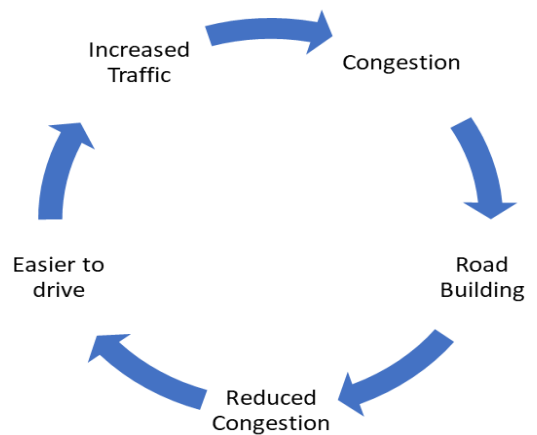
This was supported in a 2018 Department of Transportation report which stated:

“Induced demand is likely to be higher for capacity improvements in urban areas or on highly congested routes”²

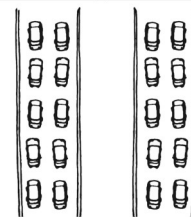
Building a new road across the river at the north end of Aylestone Meadows would be likely to generate more traffic and would not therefore help with the problems of congestion on Middleton Street / Braunstone Lane East and Upperton Road in the medium or long term.

1. 1994 Standing Advisory Committee on Truck Road Assessment report to the Department of Transport. **Trunk roads and the generation of traffic.** 12.14

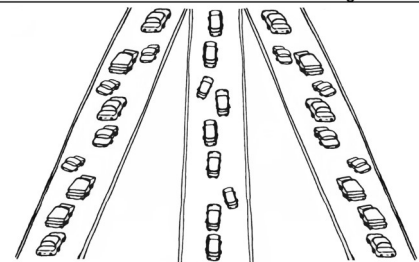
2. 2018 **Latest Evidence On Induced Travel Demand: an evidence review.** Report for the department of Transport. P24



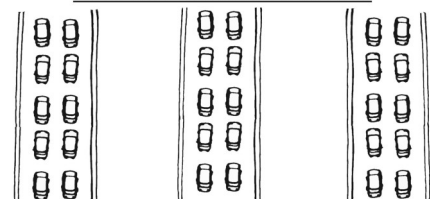
Current traffic levels on Upperton Rd and Middleton St



New road takes share of traffic and encourages car use



Future traffic levels on all three roads



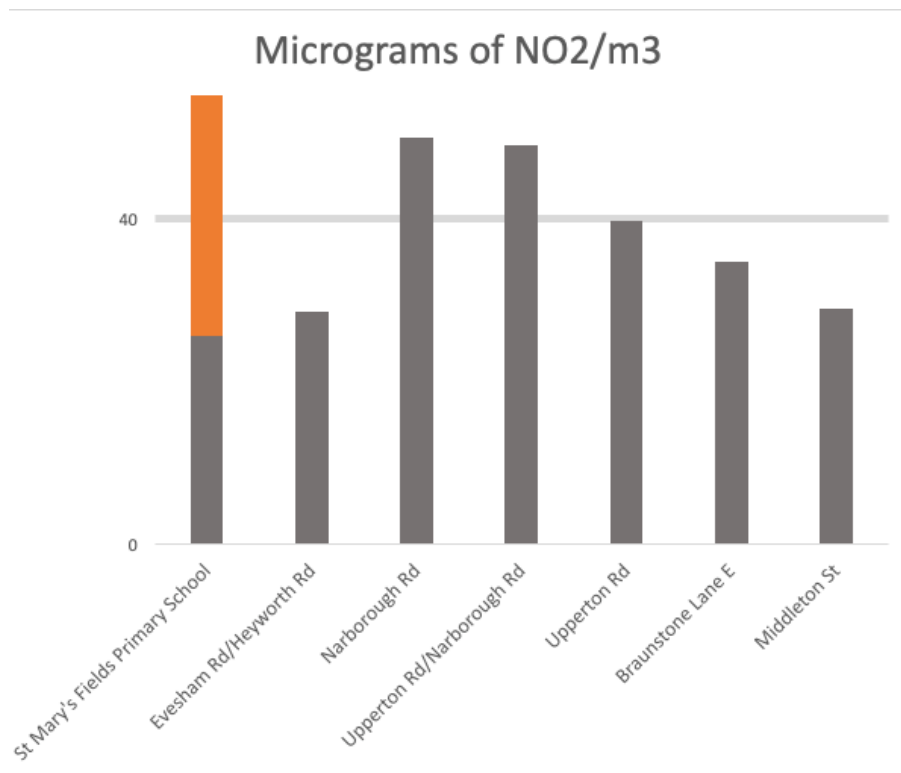
Taken from Leicester City Council's Essential Guide to Travel Planning for Employers in Leicester

“comprehensive Travel Plan research undertaken for the Department for Transport suggested that the success of a Travel Plan can be predicted by the package of measures implemented.

- A plan with car sharing and cycle measures may achieve 3-5% reduction in drive alone commuting;
- A plan with car sharing, cycling and large discounts on public transport plus works buses will achieve around a 10% reduction; and
- The combination of all the above measures, together with disincentives to drive e.g. car park management, can achieve 15-30% reduction in drive alone commuting.

You need a carrot AND stick approach.

Leicester is about to get millions of pounds of funding towards public transport from national government. Think how much more effective it could be in reducing air pollution and getting people to move away from car use if as well as improving public transport, you also put in measures which discourage car use.



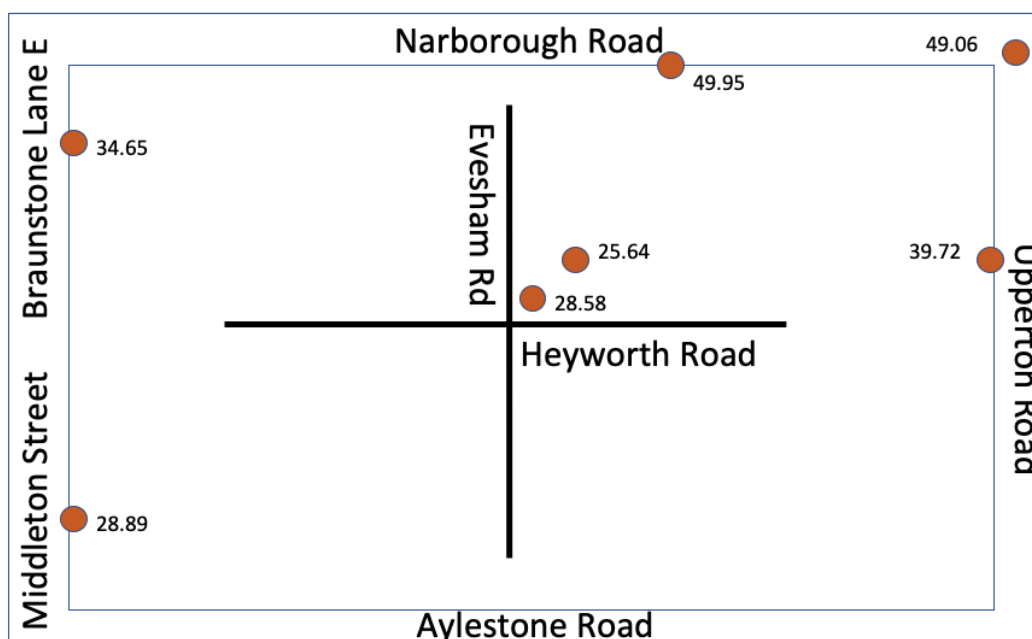
There are three schools with over 1600 pupils between them which would be affected by this road as more traffic is drawn past them.

Last year we took air pollution measurements for nitrogen dioxide. Nitrogen dioxide is not only a dangerous pollutant in its own right—it's also a good indicator for the presence of other traffic caused air pollutants including particulate matter.

In the case of St Mary's Fields which has 480 children aged 4 to 11, building this road would almost certainly raise the nitrogen dioxide pollution levels over the legal EU limit.

Air pollution, especially nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) has been linked to many problems including:

- Poor cognitive development in children
- Strokes and heart attacks
- COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- Asthma
- Increased levels of violent crime
- Death in babies
- Developing serious mental health problems
- Dementia



REF 1

Dear Councillors,

I believe you are all on the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission. I have heard that you will be meeting to discuss the possibility of the Evesham link road on Weds 16th October.

I want to urge you to recommend that this link road does not happen. I do not want any possibility of this link road ploughing across our beautiful meadows. Over 1500 people have signed petition against this (many of them your constituents) and many have turned up to protests outside the Town Hall, to save our Meadows from this destruction. So, please can you ask that:

- that the possibility of this road (the red line on the map as the council sees it) is removed from the local plan for once and for all.
- that the city council makes a commitment not to ever build this road.

I walk and cycle through the Meadows, and cross exactly where this road would be, several times a week, I go for walks, destress from work, pick apples and plums, paddle in the stream, it is an amazing oasis of nature in the middle of our concrete polluted city and I see hundreds of people enjoying it every day especially in the summer. This road would mean heavy traffic ploughing through, cutting up a rare peaceful stretch of trees and greenery. This additional road will just increase traffic as it will temporarily be attractive to drive on this new empty road, but we all know that it will not be long before it is congested again, due to all the extra car drivers. Earlier this year I worked as a Teaching Assistant in Hazel Primary - I know that I do not want our children, who have no choice but to live in this area, to have to breath in yet more toxic air than the already do - we have a moral responsibility to be reducing road building and therefore air pollution - for the health of the next generations and our whole planet.

I am opposed to the road for many reasons including to protect our children, to protect the meadows, to act on the climate emergency, to save our communities, to protect less privileged people in Leicester and so as not to encourage more traffic.

Thanks,
Charlotte Jones

REF 2

To Susan Barton,

I am writing concerning the proposed road to be built through Aylstone meadows. This is one the last true wild parts of nature left in leicester. Any road through this area will break the green corridor that runs through that area and disrupt the wild life living there. Areas such as this are also important to have for people to have a place to go to relax and reconnect nature. I would like you to bring my concerns up at the council meeting about this that is coming up soon.

Building more roads will not solve the problems we have of congestion air and noise pollution caused by there being too many vehicles on the roads. I can only assume that you are hoping that a new road will reduce congestion. Any supposed benefits on congestion will go almost unnoticed as it will only encourage more road users as many surveys have shown. Then you will just have more roads with even more cars and even more air pollution, only this time right in the middle of an area of natural beauty. Have we not learned anything from all the warnings of climate change that this ever increasing use of resources cannot go on?

The money would be far better spent on a decent cycle infrastructure and green public transport. Buses and trains that do not run on diesel or petrol, but are electrical and battery powered, supplied by sustainable zero carbon sources of electricity would do far more for our air pollution problems. A continuous specific bike lane marked out and for cyclists to use all over the city would encourage more people to not use their cars for the so many unnecessary journeys. The current intermittent cycle lane network puts both cyclists and pedestrians at risk as it is not standardised in any way and so no one knows what to expect on each road they come on to.

Yours sincerely
Steven Charles

REF 3

Dear Dr Barton

My name is Felicity Larson. I'm a resident of Heyworth Road, and I believe you are a new representative for our area on the city council. I am sure that you are already aware of the concern that residents of our ward and other areas of the city have about the possibility of a link road being built connecting Evesham Road to Aylestone Road, through the site of the Faircharm Industrial Estate and cutting along the top of Aylestone Meadows. I'm a member of the End of the Road campaign group, and I contacted you in this capacity some months ago, sharing details of our concerns in a document that we put together to support our cause.

I hope you will be able to help us get the council to remove the "red line" on the map that represents this possible development from the Local Plan. We are also asking that the council formally pledge not to pursue the building of a road at this site for the remainder of the time that the Local Plan covers, approximately 30 years.

As a clinical psychologist who works with children, I am particularly concerned about the effects of additional air pollution on the most vulnerable residents of the city. This includes impacts on their bodies that could affect them for the rest of their lives, as well as impacts on their mental health and well-being. Recent studies have confirmed spikes of mental distress in young people linked to spikes in air pollution, for example. As well as opposing this road, I also oppose any plan that encourages any further car use in the city. I myself cycle to work, and while we own a car, we try to use it sparingly and only when absolutely needed. I believe many other residents of the city could make the same choices, for the benefit of all of us, and still access the many lovely amenities in the city centre. My husband and I enjoy the walk up the Great Central Way into town from our house, for example - it's a lovely start to a night out, or we can use a taxi or bus if the weather is poor.

I hope that I can look forward to working with you, as one of our local councillors, to pursue a greener future for Leicester, starting with a commitment from the council not to build the Evesham Road link. I will be supporting members of our campaign when we address the Economic Development, Transport, and Tourism committee on 16 October 2019.

Yours sincerely
Dr Felicity Larson
Clinical Psychologist & Resident of Heyworth Road

REF 4

Dear Councillor Barton

Please would you consider my opposition as follows for the Narborough Rd/Saffron Lane Link Road.

As a resident of Evesham Road, I noted the potential reinstatement of the road scheme put forward and rejected as the route through to Saffron Lane from Narborough Road in the early 90s as part of the 2017 Local Plan Consultation. I would like to express my extreme concern that although this scheme was shelved previously it is still being identified as a potential option for transport improvements in the Local Plan. I have been part of the campaign group to raise awareness about the potential issues and would like to put this forward as I am aware there is a forthcoming Scrutiny Committee about the issue.

The reasons for my concerns are as follows:

1. The air quality caused by the volume of traffic on Narborough Road is already an identified concern and danger to public health. Putting another road through this area will only increase the problem. There is a primary school in close proximity to the road and this will put children's health at significant risk. At a time when the City Council is aiming to improve public health with COPD problems a big health problem in the west of the city a scheme like this is going to make the area's health problems much worse. In the City Council's Air Quality Action Plan 2016-2026 consultation showed:

A summary of the main consultation responses that are relevant include:

- Improving the public transport network and operation
- Improving our cycling infrastructure
- Improving the management of the highway network
- Ensuring land use planning decisions encourages active travel /restricts the use of cars
- Encouraging more Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV)

2. The road would encourage more people to use cars at a time when the City Council is supposed to be reducing the use of cars and encouraging more people to use public transport, walk, cycle etc. The council should be increasing more environmentally friendly and sustainable transport options such as congestion charging and improved public transport and cycle routes to reduce car use.

3. The scheme would cause residents on the street severe disruption to daily life and community spirit, significantly reduce the value of their homes, cause parking chaos and make it a much more dangerous area for children. Noise and air pollution would significantly increase in an area which is already one of the highest for air pollution caused by traffic in the city.

4. It is likely that many residents would not want to continue living on the street if a major road was to be built on their doorstep. This would break up a close knit community where many people have been residents for most of their lives.

5. I would personally expect significant compensation for the lower quality of life and decreased value of my home if a scheme like this were to go ahead, and would seek legal advice and be willing to initiate campaign action to prevent the scheme going ahead/secure significant compensation.

6. Aylestone Meadows, which the road would cross, is a very special area of outstanding natural beauty and wildlife used by thousands of people and families on a regular basis. A road scheme

which cuts through the meadows would decimate its unique value as a green space for residents of the city.

7. As a tax payer, at a time of Government and local authority cuts, the cost of a road scheme such as this would be a very unpopular and unnecessary. The more roads the authority provides the more people will use their cars and congest the city and make it an unhealthy and unpleasant place to live. Leicester is already one of the most congested cities in the UK. The Council needs to think of creative and sustainable solutions to bring people in and out of the city. More roads is not the answer.

Christina Wigmore

REF 5

Dear Cllr. Waddington,

I am writing to you as the Chair of Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Committee.

I am a resident of Haddenham Road, Leicester and wish to express my opposition to the inclusion of the proposed road through Aylestone Meadows (referred to as the Evesham Road Link) that is being heard at the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Committee meeting on 16 October 2019

I will summarise the main grounds for my opposition below.

This would involve a major development in the Aylestone Meadows which raises concerns on several factors including wildlife (some of which is protected under UK and EU law), the use of safe cycle routes, the safety of families who use the meadows to get to some open space in the city and concerns about developments on a major flood plain for the river Soar.

This development would cause additional traffic in the area around St Mary's Fields Primary School (Evesham Road is one of the roads that runs right next to the school), putting the lives and safety of school children at risk. In my professional capacity, I have witnessed first hand the devastating effects a car can have when it hits a young child and the trauma that results for the child and their family.

This development has the potential to profoundly affect the physical and mental health of local residents, putting strain on our medical, social and emergency services. This would disproportionately affect the wards most vulnerable residents, such as the elderly, young children, those already suffering from health conditions and those from lower socio-economic backgrounds.

Numerous studies have shown that building new roads only temporarily relieves congestion and leads to an effect of "induced traffic" whereby traffic quantity actually increases because of the new roads.

The increased traffic would worsen the air quality around Leicester City, where pollution already exceeds the European Threshold for Nitrogen Dioxide. Although an argument may be made that free flowing traffic would reduce pollution, this would not be the case here. Evesham Road is a traffic light controlled junction with Narborough Road so traffic would be forced to stop and wait at the junction. This would lead to an increase in stationary traffic

with idling engines (the exact opposite of what is needed).

The increased traffic and associated Nitrogen Dioxide levels would put the health of some of the cities vulnerable residents at risk. In fact, the development of a major new road goes directly against several tasks and actions set out in Leicester City Councils document "Healthier Air for Leicester Leicester's Air Quality Action Plan (2015-2026)".

I would like to request that you represent the concerns of those you represent and speak up at every opportunity to voice your opposition to the inclusion of this road in the local plan.

Yours Sincerely,
Tom Mee

REF 6

Dear Councillors

I am writing to you as I am apposed to the Evesham Road link road.

I am opposed to the road for many reasons including to protect our children, to protect the meadows, to act on the climate emergency, to save our communities, to protect less privileged people in Leicester and so as not to encourage more traffic.

In particular I'm concerned for the children who attend St Mary's Fields Primary School where I work. I am concerned about increasing levels of pollution in the area and the impact that increased traffic in the area will have on their young respiratory systems and long term health implications. Also I am concerned about safety for the children and parents walking to school with increased traffic flow so close to the school and the realistic potential for increased accidents and potential loss of life.

I am asking:

- that the possibility of this road (the red line on the map as the council sees it) is removed from the local plan for once and for all.
- that the city council makes a commitment not to build this road now or in the next 30 years.

Regards
Liz Lawton

REF 7

Dear Cllr Barton,

As I hope you are aware, the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Scrutiny Commission will be hearing an address from the End of The Road campaign on Weds 16th Oct. I'm writing to you to ask if you'd be willing to talk to the councillors in that commission before that meeting to encourage them to recommend to the City Executive that the Evesham Road link be removed from the Leicester Local Plan. More specifically to ask that:

1. The road be removed from the map of red lines of potential future roads in the Local Plan
2. The council give formal guarantees that it will not return to the idea of building this road again in the next 30 years
3. The council put in place systematic policies which discourage car use and prioritise active and public transport.

The problem those of us who live locally and don't want to see this road built are struggling with, is that the council does not have a formal plan, or funding to build this road at the moment, and seems to be therefore resisting talking about the road, instead implying that we're making a fuss about nothing. This makes it very hard to have a debate about the pros and cons of the road.

It seems to me however that there is a strong intention to build this road in the next 10-15 years, at least in the minds of Sir Peter Soulsby and Adam Clarke, who are as I understand it, in a good position to make it happen. I think this for the reasons listed at the bottom of this letter.

My concern is that having met with Adam Clarke about this, and asked what the process would be to build such a road, his response was that when possible funding becomes available, a plan would be quickly drawn up and the evidence gathered to support it, the funding bid would be put in, and then there would be a public consultation about it. This is exactly what happened with the opening of Putney Rd to two way traffic and is really problematic in the following ways:

- It doesn't give time or opportunity for local groups or people outside the council to check the accuracy of the evidence given in support of the road. I'd like to be able to feel that this isn't a problem, and that of course it would be accurate, but the data analysis done by the Putney Road Say No campaign would suggest that this is optimistic on my part.
- It doesn't give time or opportunity for either the council itself or local groups or people to gather and present evidence to counter the idea that such a road would be beneficial to the people of Leicester. Given how much evidence now exists that building roads actually causes additional car use – especially in areas with high capacity approaches such as the M1 and river crossings – there is a real need for the council to think about this carefully. The out-of-date belief that induced traffic doesn't exist is sadly still very prevalent in council circles, for example, when I met with Adam Clarke he said that induced traffic “doesn't apply to Leicester”. So it would be helpful to have the time and relationship with the council that would enable us to work together to actually test if this is true rather than plunging into building a road which is likely, based on the vast majority of the research I've read over the past few months, to make matters worse in terms of congestion and air pollution.
- It doesn't give the time or opportunity for the council or local people to think deeply, understand and engage with all the complicated issues which arise when a road is built or around traffic management. It's much more comfortable for everyone involved, both council and residents of Leicester to assume there is a relatively straightforward (albeit very expensive) solution to transport problems in the city like “build a road and the traffic will flow more freely” than to accept that traffic needs to be managed and can't simply be catered for. As a city we need time, research, honest multi-directional communication and support to come to terms with the problems of too much car use and the council and communities need time to work together to do this.
- And to be honest, it also doesn't feel very democratic. It feels like the council – or possibly some parts of the council – is trying to minimise debate about the question of if a road would be a good idea or not, rather than genuinely engaging with the question.

There are many reasons why I don't want to see this road built.

The obvious one is that I live on Heyworth Road and my partner who suffers from a chronic illness which makes her sound sensitive is unlikely to be able to use the garden or sleep with the window open if this road is built, which is very upsetting. Life already feels hard for her without this extra layer of difficulty.

But for me personally it's much more about new roads inducing more traffic, a lack of systematic traffic demand management across the city and above all deprivation. I've spent my whole life living on an income of below 10,000pounds a year. I've never been able to afford a car, and most of the time buses and trains have also been a stretch. In the decades I've lived in Leicester I've lived in Highfields, Clarendon Park, Newfoundpool and South Wigston and I know what it's like trying to get around on a low income. I've chosen to live like this, so I don't know what it's like to be genuinely poor, but it does give me some insight into what this city is like to live in if you don't have money or a car and I'm well aware that for most people it's a huge struggle living on a low income. So it really upsets me to see my council (worse still, my Labour council) promoting a road with seemingly no awareness of how encouraging car use impacts on people without the privilege of a car.

Every time a road like this is built, more people use their cars, less people use the buses and the buses get more expensive, and eventually services get cut – cutting people without cars off from their jobs, families and services. It's not just that though. It's that as people with cars use them more and get more accustomed to using them, they use out of town shopping centers and places like Ikea more. This means their money doesn't go to local traders, who struggle, put up their prices and can eventually go out of business leaving the people without cars less access to things which people with cars can take for granted. At the last census, 37% of the households in Leicester didn't have a car, and even now that surely means more than 30%. And the most upsetting thing about this is that it's the more deprived people who are impacted on the most severely by the air pollution created by the cars they don't have access to.

In the time I've lived in Leicester, I've found it hard to visit and support family and friends because the city is so centered around cars. Learning to cycle helped with this, but I'm not a good cyclist (even though I spend hours on my bike every week just getting to and from work) and it's terrifying cycling on most of the roads in Leicester. I don't want to live in a city where people are encouraged to use cars and the healthier, more environmental options are made ever less attractive. London is getting serious about changing this, and I would so love to see Leicester do the same.

Writing this makes me realise that I have another thing that I want to ask you to do as my councillor. Please would you talk to the other councillors who you know well and get on with about the issues around road building in relation to deprivation and induced traffic. They are outlined in the End of the Road briefing (which I attach) on pages 2, 3 and 7. The solutions outlined on page 11 are not easy for a council to implement, but they are at least potentially effective, equitable and address the underlying issue of how to deal with the growing levels of car use in Leicester – and in the end being tied to a car is rarely a positive even for people who do own them. Finally I'd like to say thankyou for the contribution you made to the full council debate last October. I think it helped to shape how that debate went in a positive way.

I look forward to hearing from you,
Yours sincerely,
Zina Zelter

Why I think there is an intention to build this road, even if there is not a current plan:

1. Leicester City Council has tried to build this road before.
2. The funding bid to open Putney Rd to national government - a funding bid which was signed by Adam Clarke and which was successful – said that "Leicester City Council is considering a future scheme whereby Evesham Road would be extended to provide a direct link (new vehicular bridge over River Soar and canal) between the A426 Aylestone Road and the

A5460 Narborough Road and M1/J21. There are very few river crossings in the south of the city (namely Upperton Road and Middleton Street) and providing this link would free up those congested routes across the river. The Putney Road link would greatly enhance the viability of building the Evesham Road link."

3. When I met with Adam Clarke in March this year he made it very clear that he thought such a road would be a positive thing and would be likely to exist in the next 10-15 years. Previous to this, someone who I trust and who meets periodically with Adam Clarke for work reasons told me of a conversation they had with Adam Clarke last year in which he said that this road would "definitely happen". I heard from two other people that they have heard Sir Pete Soulsby say the same thing.
4. The Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan, as it currently stands, would involve tens of thousands of new homes being built to the South of Leicester which is bound to put pressure on the council to deal with the congestion and air quality problems on this side of the city.
5. As I understand it, the council owns houses and possibly other assets which it has acquired in the past with a view to building this road.

REF 8

Hi Su,

The issue of the Evesham Road Link Road (or Aylestone Village bypass as Peter Soulsby has called it!) is being considered at a council scrutiny commission meeting next Wednesday (16th), at City Hall from 5.30 onwards. One of the leaders of the group End of the Road has been in frequent touch with Sue Waddington - the chair of the commission - and Sue has agreed for presentations to be made to the meeting by Friends of the Earth, the End of the Road (I will be giving this presentation), an environmental group called Footpaths and Aylestone Meadows Appreciation Society.

After the presentations the councillors will debate the issue. We are calling on them to remove the "red line" from the Local Plan.

I wonder if you might be able to come along to the meeting as an observer, to show support for our objections to the proposal?

All the best,
Kim Burley Jones

REF 9

Dear Mr Tyler,

I am writing to oppose the proposed Evesham Link Road for a number of reasons. Unfortunately I cannot attend the meeting tomorrow so I wanted to write to you instead.

Councillor Ross Willmott said this proposed road should be taken off the Local Plan.

1: It would destroy a large part of Aylestone Meadows and we don't have many natural habitats left in our part of Leicester. We, our family and friends use the Meadows frequently to walk and walk

dogs. We meet there and enjoy the outdoors whenever we can, the road would impact on that natural beauty spot. We should protect Aylestone Meadows, not destroy it!

2: The traffic from the new road would bring more car fumes and pollution very near a school in the area impacting on the health of our children.

3: New road building which isn't necessary is not protecting our environment, it is destroying the environment.

4: More cars always means more congestion, more pollution, more noise, more accidents, more health problems.

5: It would also have a serious impact on already deprived communities in the area.

I hope this proposal can be taken off the map now for good!!

Yours Sincerely
Sylvia Tucker and Laraine Tucker

REF 10
Dear Mr Tyler

I am writing to express my objection to the Evesham Road link potential plan. I have been a resident and a part of our close knit community since 2003. My daughter attended St Marys Fields school, and I walk on the Aylestone Meadows twice a day with my dog, and previously was a member of the Rowley Fields Allotment Society. There are many of us in the community that oppose the plans for a link road.

Evesham Road has already become a far too busy thoroughfare for the Faircharm trading estate, making our road a far less safe place to live and walk along, especially for families walking to and from school. A link Road would only serve to exacerbate this as well as increase pollution, traffic, damage to natural habitats within the meadows, and in turn dump more congestion onto the already congested Aylestone Road.

Surely a better idea, in line with the council's plans to reduce pollution and traffic as well as encouraging the use of public transport, cycling and walking, would be a plan for a pedestrian route, with a cycle path, if any development were to take place.

I do not understand how Evesham Road could actually accommodate the level of traffic a link road would bring, it's backward thinking in this time of environmental awareness.

I would like to see the plans thrown out once and for all for a link road.

Yours sincerely
Melanie Harper

REF 11

Dear Sirs

I am writing to object to the proposed east west link road from Saffron Lane/Aylestone Road across the river Soar and Aylestone Meadows to Narborough Road. We already have Upperton Road and Braunstone Lane East/Middleton Street going East to West and do not need another new road damaging the nature reserve of Aylestone Meadows. I walk on Aylestone Meadows nearly every day and would hate to see it adversely affected by a road development.

Regards

Simon Potter

REF 12

Dear all,

I would like to formally put forward my objection to the proposed new access road through Aylestone Meadows nature reserve.

This important green space is not only much loved by members of the public but is also home to an abundance of wildlife which rely so much on this habitat in their ever shrinking world.

The fragile ecosystem within Aylestone Meadows will not simply relocate and bend to accommodate a new road. It will be altered so negatively and that impact will be irreversible.

As a conservation instructor working with inner city children and young people (often disadvantaged) we make extensive use of the meadows during sessions to educate those young people about our natural environment and the importance of looking after and respecting nature. Without such a green space these young people would otherwise not have the opportunity to witness such a level of biodiversity or to ignite a passion and interest in something so important.

It is proven that time spent within green spaces has a significant and positive impact on mental health. Today, on World Mental Health Day, I ask you to please reconsider and revoke your decision to damage what many of us, including the young people of our city, consider to be the heart, lungs, playground and classroom of Leicester. It is a part of childhood that every young person in the area should have access to and in a world where unspoilt meadows, woodlands, heaths and marshes are becoming more scarce I really can't see why we, as a city, would put our name towards contributing to that devastation.

Kind regards in hope that our voices are heard,
Anne-Marie Kirby

REF 13

Hi

We are a young family who live a few houses from Evesham road. We are all very alarmed at the thought of this road being made into a major route across the city.

Firstly it would be directly next to a Primary school, endangering everyone who attends and the local community with the hazardous car fumes. With international focus now on the environment it seems a very backward step for Leicester to be considering.

Traffic in this area is already bad at school and football times, plus the dangers of school children walking to school near a busy road.

The road would also start very close to an expanding Secondary school, endangering more young people's health and safety.

Secondly the road would go over a much used and loved green space, Aylestone meadows and the Great Central Way. I often walk there bewildered that anyone would ever consider building over such rare, vital green city space.

The road would tear right through the centre of a community, pushing an inclusive family community out of the city.

Finally the road will not solve any transport problems, it would only encourage more people to use their cars.

Closing more rural services and forcing people to travel into the city is cost cutting and not putting anyone's physical and emotional needs before money.

Now is NOT the time to be building roads, now decision makers need to be coming up with new ideas to combat pollution.

Thanks for your time and reading how we and our young children feel. And the kids do understand and DO NOT WANT A BUSY ROAD NEAR THEIR HOME AND SCHOOL.

Regards
Lorna Wood

REF 14

Dear Councillors

I'd like you to support removing the Evesham Road/Aylestone Road link road from the Leicester Local Plan.

I oppose the road because:

- It would encourage people to use cars more, which would mean more greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere. I'd find that extremely depressing. I was pleased when Leicester City Council, and then the UK government, declared a climate emergency; but I need to see *action* that includes making a strong and immediate commitment to reducing car use.
- Lots of local people that I know tell me their mental health is suffering because of the mismatch between what scientists tell us needs to be done to avoid climate catastrophe and what's actually being done to combat it. Images of the Arctic burning and the rainforests on fire have increased this pressure. Clear local anti-car policies would help us stay mentally strong, and would reduce pressure on the health service in the area.

- The road would increase air pollution for everyone living in Leicester. One of my friends, who lives in Troon Ward (as I do), has a son who often gets asthma when he visits her in Leicester. We assume that's because of the polluted atmosphere here. I've read that many other people have severe health problems because of Leicester's air pollution. We really don't need things to get worse.
- As a regular bus user, I'm worried about the potential for increased car use, because that would probably lead to less funding for buses throughout Leicester. Quite a few of my neighbours don't have cars and can't cycle, so buses are a lifeline for them. Those who are most vulnerable are most at risk.
- I enjoy going to Aylestone Meadows on the Circleline bus. I'd hate to see any road, but especially a busy one, cutting across the area. It's a tranquil green space that feels rural, and even wild. One day I saw grass snakes swimming there; another day my botany group spotted a plant that's rare in Leicestershire. A busy road would destroy the feeling of tranquillity and wellbeing that I, and many others, experience there. I need green spaces like this more than I used to. I used to enjoy going for a quick walk round my local area, with green and colourful front gardens to look at, but now they're mostly tarmac and concrete, as more and more cars need more and more space for parking.
- The road would disrupt an important wildlife corridor. Birds, bees, butterflies etc. all rely on these corridors to access different habitat. We need to create more of these corridors, not destroy those that we have. Why should we humans hog all the habitat? And if creatures can't move freely they're less likely to visit gardens in other parts of the city. This proposed road threatens my pleasure in watching butterflies and birds even in my garden in the north-east of the city.

Traffic congestion needs to be tackled, but tackled effectively. I hope we can have more cycle tracks – I prefer tracks that are completely separate from traffic. I feel safer away from cars, and I don't like inhaling traffic fumes. The physiotherapist that I was referred to last year told me that cycling is excellent for combatting arthritis and improving muscle strength and overall fitness. So if enough people cycled, instead of driving, it would probably reduce the pressure on local GPs and hospitals.

I've also heard that Bologna, in Italy, offers people an app that tracks how they travel in the city. If they use sustainable transport they get points which can be redeemed at local businesses. I heard this on BBC Radio's World Service, on a *World Hacks* programme.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3cswvrj>

There must be other schemes around the world that could be considered for Leicester too.

I trust you will consider the points that I've made

Yours sincerely
Rosie Budd

REF 15

Dear Sirs

I am writing regarding the proposed Evesham Road link, which is due to be discussed by the Economic Development, Transport and Tourism Commission, on Wednesday 16 October 2019 at 5.30pm at the City Hall.

I believe that the Aylestone Meadows is an amazing resource for the people of Leicester, for recreation, education, conservation/wildlife and being able to connect with nature, without having

to travel outside the city. It is a vital green lung which should not be dismissed just for the sake of "development". Leicester once had the title "Environment City". A title it doesn't seem to want anymore. Why bulldoze through an area which gives to the local community, just to "ease congestion ". I feel the road is just a red herring - it may reduce congestion in the immediate short term, but longer term will add to it. The position of the potential entry onto Aylestone Road from Boundary Road and then onto Saffron Lane, will just make it an even bigger concrete/car jungle and making the area less desirable to reside in. The potential for the road to continue through Hughenden Drive, doesn't bare thinking about. This is a lovely tree lined road. Also, the old St Marys allotments have now been developed with housing. Will the remaining green space also be sacrificed? Air pollution (already a problem), will only increase.

Greater consideration should be given to public transport and improved options for walking and cycling. This will help to reduce air pollution and encourage people to partake in free exercise. Let's not ruin our green oasis for cars and lorries, but take pride in this recreational and wildlife asset to our city.

Regards
Alison Frankum

REF 16

Dear Councillors,

I would like the Evesham link road to be removed from Leicester's local plan and for Leicester City Council to commit to ruling out building this road for the next 30 years, for the following reasons:
-A climate emergency has been declared and **any plan which encourages personal car use is beyond irresponsible**. I want to be part of a forward-thinking city which puts all its efforts into making public transport and cycling safe, affordable, convenient and accessible. I feel particularly strongly about this after being knocked off my bike by a car in February of this year.

-**Aylestone Meadows is one of the jewels in Leicester's crown**. When I have visitors from other parts of the country, I always take them there as I feel proud of it. They are always impressed that the middle of the city boasts such a haven of tranquillity, beauty and biodiversity. I am proud to tell friends and family living in rural areas that I see little egrets, kingfishers and buzzards on a daily basis during my cycling commute through the city. The suggested road would fragment habitats as well as increase noise and chemical pollution and would have a devastating effect on the wonderful biodiversity. At a time of biodiversity crisis, this would also be beyond irresponsible. I thought I was part of a city which valued its green spaces for the physical and mental health of its residents, as well as the wider world. Part of my job is taking children with mental health problems to Aylestone Meadows to reap the considerable therapeutic benefits of connecting with nature and escaping from the concrete jungles which form their worlds. The idea of introducing traffic noise into this oasis is abhorrent.

-**Leicester's levels of air pollution are shameful**. It has been proven time and again that new roads simply generate new traffic and any easing of congestion is temporary. Traffic pollution causes premature deaths. The topography of the landscape causes more build-up of harmful particles at peak times than in comparable cities so Leicester has a greater responsibility than most to manage traffic levels. Even in the unlikely event that no accidents will ever occur on the suggested road, it will kill people.

-Businesses will suffer and jobs, including mine, may be lost if the road is built through the Faircharm Industrial Estate. Small businesses already face huge pressures and there is a lack of affordable premises in Leicester.

Yours faithfully,
Bethan Painter

REF 17

Dear Mr. Tyler, and dear City Councillors,

Re: Proposed East-West Link Road across Aylestone Meadows

I understand that you are gathering public opinion on the proposed East-West Link Road across Aylestone Meadows. As a frequent - almost daily - user of the Meadows, and registered voter living in the Aylestone ward, I would like to state my unequivocal opposition to this scheme, and ask that it be removed, permanently, from the local plan.

If building new roads, ever reduced traffic congestion, why haven't all the roads built to date, reduced traffic congestion to zero? If the policy worked, there would be no need to build another road.

Don't take my word for it: read the science...

New roads create new traffic | Campaign For Better Transport
<https://bettertransport.org.uk/roads-nowhere/induced-traffic>

Traffic Jam? Blame 'Induced Demand.' - CityLab
<https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2018/09/citylab-university-induced-demand/569455/>

Clearly, road building has never solved congestion problems, and there is absolutely no reason to believe that the proposed East-West Link Road across Aylestone Meadows will be any different. The plan will not reduce congestion, but rather, exacerbate it, and/or displace it somewhere else, whilst ruining Aylestone Meadows and the local area at the same time.

The climate emergency and sixth great extinction are existential threats to us all, yet this scheme will simply increase noise, carbon dioxide emissions and other vehicle-related pollution. It will be self-defeating as it will encourage more journeys, whilst permanently damaging and fragmenting one of the few remaining wild(ish) parts of the city.

Please don't fall for the time-old logical fallacy: "we must do something; this is something; therefore, we must do this"! As Albert Einstein might have said, (but didn't), "insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results" (See <https://quoteinvestigator.com/2017/03/23/same/>)

Kind regards,
Jeff

REF 18

Dear all,

I would like to formally put forward my objection to the proposed new access road through Aylestone Meadows nature reserve.

This important green space is not only much loved by members of the public but is also home to an abundance of wildlife which rely so much on this habitat in their ever shrinking world.

The fragile ecosystem within Aylestone Meadows will not simply relocate and bend to accommodate a new road. It will be altered so negatively and that impact will be irreversible. We have already seen the loss of so many habitats, which are all contributing to the climate crisis we are witnessing, leading to a climate emergency being declared.

As a conservation instructor working with inner city children and young people (often disadvantaged) we make extensive use of the meadows during sessions to educate those young people about our natural environment and the importance of looking after and respecting nature. Without such a green space these young people would otherwise not have the opportunity to witness such a level of biodiversity or to ignite a passion and interest in something so important.

It is proven that time spent within green spaces has a significant and positive impact on mental health. Having worked with young people on World Mental Health Day where, I ask you to please reconsider and revoke your decision to damage what many of us, including the young people of our city, consider to be the heart, lungs, playground and classroom of Leicester. It is a part of childhood that every young person in the area should have access to and in a world where unspoilt meadows, woodlands, heaths and marshes are becoming more scarce I really can't see why we, as a city, would put our name towards contributing to that devastation.

We must protect all our wildlife spaces. It is our responsibility and obligation to leave the next generation with a green and healthy home, where they can thrive alongside all of the animals and plants that we share this beautiful space with.

Kind regards in hope that our voices are heard,
Leigh Errington

REF 19

Dear Coucillors,

I would like you to recommend the removal of the Evesham Road Link from the Leicester Local Plan..

I am, as you can see, a local resident, and a member of a community that cares for each other and one which treasures the green space which we have at the end of our road...Aylestone Meadows.

I hope you have all visited it. Everyone I take there, from all over Britain and the world, are astonished by the Meadows...that we can have a place of such natural beauty and tranquility, home to so many creatures and plants and trees, and good air to breathe, on our doorstep, in the city, is very special. It gives us what you can't have in our countryside....a real right to roam. On the Meadows we can walk without the intrusion of traffic pollution, noise and nighttime lights. We observe nature there, watch the seasons, exercise, socialise or just escape the confines of our homes

to be free for a while. It is of such importance, such a treasure, it mustn't be spoiled in any way by the perceived demands of transport.

I did some voluntary work on the meadows in the early 1970's when a young teacher, I had no idea what it was all about. What a Council of vision it was that conceived such a place....and it should be protected from any council that plans to invade it in any way.

You can see it is the most important issue for me. But I do live on Evesham Road and I have spoken with most of my neighbours on the Road over the past 2 years of this matter coming to light. Long term residents are of course remembering the 1990's campaign and are upset that it has come up again. They long for the peace of mind that is the removal of the Link road from the plan. Newer neighbours have children who attend St Mary Fields and are very concerned about the traffic danger and the inevitable rise in air pollution.

All of us dread these things, and the increase in noise. We are a residential area and long to be reassured that we can continue to be so ...its not a place for a major link road and major traffic. I use the Great Central Way for cycling and walking and avoid Narborough Road for both because of its traffic, noise and pollution. Evesham Road is the route for cyclists and pedestrians to access the Great Central Way and The Meadows for Leisure or to get across to Aylestone Road or Aylestone Village.

I know you will give good consideration to the protection of the Meadows. Every green space in Leicester is very important and much to be protected from the Planners. But in Aylestone Meadows we are protecting Nature, its a wild life haven and we have a responsibility for taking care of that on behalf of the Natural world.

Yours sincerely
Jean McNeil

REF 20
To Ms Barton

I am opposed to the link road.
It will destroy our road and neighbourhood forever!
It will cause chaos to our lovely road.
We don't need more pollution and traffic.
Also the Meadows must be protected. They have many different species of wildlife and flowers.
Why would anyone destroy such natural beauty??

Please help us.

From
Ms. Bhanote.

REF 21
Dear Susan,

I have become aware that there is a meeting to discuss the proposed link Road across the northern end of Aylestone Meadow.

I would like to object to this proposal in the strongest terms. Given the current issues of climate change the last thing thus council should be considering is yet another road to bring more traffic into the city. Levels of pollution from traffic are too high already and spreading it further will not reduce it. Please oppose this proposal.

It is a concern for people across the city, not just in the immediate area.

Yours sincerely
Sally White

REF 22

Hello there.

I am a concerned city resident who is also a GP and I see the detrimental effects of roads and traffic every day.

Pollution related asthma, copd & heart disease.

Loneliness & isolation made worse by living on a busy road & making it hard to talk to neighbours. I live on Knighton road & don't know neighbours on the opposite side due to this.

I am very concerned that adding any new roads is still on the agenda in the city when we also have so many obese city residents. Getting people out of their cars takes carrot & stick approach. If short journeys by the vast majority of people who can walk & cycle were made, they'd be no problem with room on the roads for vehicles that need to be there.

Please recommend that the proposed road across Aylestone meadows is removed from any possible plan. Look at making Leicester a truly green city. This will help us all, our health & wellbeing. Reduce diabetes which is one of the biggest threats to our population. And safeguard all green spaces.

Thank you
Dr Judith Casson

REF 23

Good morning all,

I have been made aware of the proposal for the Evesham Link Road to go ahead and I write to you to ask that you consider my thoughts against these planned developments.

As an alternative education provision based on the Faircharm industrial estate, who cater for the educational needs of a vast number of young people from many of Leicester and Leicestershire's primary and secondary schools, the Aylestone Meadows is vital to our services.

The vast majority of the young people who attend our provision, do so to connect with nature and develop skills within the environmental sector, to improve their chances of employment and further education as well as, crucially, to improve their mental health and wellbeing, which we all know – Green spaces are central to.

Our key stage 3 and key stage 4 students study towards a Level 1 qualification in Practical Conservation and Environmental skills, largely associated with maintaining habitats and improving the already rich in biodiversity of the Aylestone Meadows site. Our primary pupils also access the site for Forest School and Outdoor learning opportunities which is key to their educational and social development, as their mainstream school environment is not necessarily the right place for them to do so.

Over the last decade, our sessions have encouraged what must be hundreds of local young people to foster a sense of responsibility for their local environment and contribute to providing a safe and accessible community site to be enjoyed by families and community members and of course the huge number of flora and fauna species which call this land home.

To disrupt this land would be devastating! Not only from a conservation perspective nor the fact that our green spaces within Leicester are being swallowed up but also for our young people who, in a time where physical and mental health concerns are increasing rapidly, deserve the right to have full and safe access to what is an incredibly unique and vitally important green space rich in biodiversity.

I do hope that this plea goes some way to assisting you with making the decision to reject the plans for the Evesham Link road. If you would like to discuss further the impact that this would have on our city's young people and the local community please do feel free to contact me at any time.

Kind regards
Keith Yates

REF 24

Dear Jason

Please could you ensure that the possibility of the link Road through Aylestone Meadows is removed from the local plan at once and that the city council commits to not building this Road now or in the next 30 years.

Aylestone Meadows is a wonderful natural habitat with many creatures, birds and plants living in life enriching ways. It is a wonderful place to walk, socialise and forage in peace. Building a road through the meadows would damage this highlight of Leicester City and this delicately balanced eco system. I look forward to hearing good news from your meeting next Wednesday.

Many thanks
Anne Scott