



Cancellation of The Bypass Has Wasted Over £22 Million...

Or A staggering £270* per Household

Everyone knows Hereford needs a bypass. Well everyone except this Green-Independent Coalition led council that is. Their first decision on winning control of the Council in 2019 was to pause and then cancel the bypass and its associated schemes condemning Hereford and its residents to many more years of traffic, congestion and pollution misery.

The demand for a bypass aside, the financial implications of cancelling the project are nothing short of scandalous. It has been estimated that the physical cost of this Green-Independent decision can be calculated at over £22 million pounds not to mention the



* Total Households Taken from The Latest Census Data

"The cost of this decision by the Green-Independent Coalition is nothing short of scandalous"

tens of millions more in lost opportunity and investment for Herefordshire. The cancellation also leaves Hereford with one, nearly 60 year

old, bridge to carry tens of thousands of cars a day! Just imagine what would happen when this bridge has to close for repairs. Hereford remains one of the few cities not to have a bypass and the failure to build it is losing the county businesses, jobs, money and skilled people who leave in search of better paying jobs.

Cancellation of the "Bypass": It is almost universally accepted (even by the two Conservative MPs for Herefordshire) that an **Eastern River crossing is the most efficient, sensible, and cost-effective solution** to address the resilience issue of needing another bridge across the river in the city.

This bridge needs to be in the east to support residents in the most populated quadrant of the City where the largest percentage of traffic movements are occurring.

This bridge is also best placed there to support the Enterprise Zone at Rotherwas and the colleges and the hospital in the north west.

At £56 million a bridge is the most cost effective and least damaging ecologically solution and will produce significantly less in embedded carbon than the western road route proposed by the Conservatives.

Let's be clear, **Hereford was NEVER getting a bypass from the Tories.** Their proposed road route went through a suburb of the city and was always intended to open up major housing development on land Grade 1 agricultural land owned by Tory party supporters.

That housing development and all the cars brought with it would have needed to be delivered BEFORE any road was built – so that developer money could be used to part fund the project. Their own traffic modelling showed that **once the road was completed the city would have even worse traffic congestion than it does now** (Just as has been the case in Worcester*) because of the large housing development brought forward to help pay for it ... and on land at significant risk of future flooding!

This is the **MASSIVE LIE you have all been sold** over the last 10 years and it's time to call it out.

Knowing this to be the reality of their potty plans, Conservatives bludgeoned ahead with trying to prove the value for money business case for their 'road to ruin' and, unsurprisingly, were unable to do so. This, despite **TORIES SPENDING more than £22m** - which should have gone on road maintenance trying – and worse, **doing dodgy deals along the way with their mates on the Marches LEP** to borrow more money to throw at the task, which they then lied about - pretending it was a grant.

When we came in as a new administration - with over 50% of the popular vote (compared to the 41% the Conservatives had in 2015), **we uncovered how much money they had chewed up on this fool's errand** which would only benefit the Council itself, Church Commissioners and major housebuilding developers (like Bloor Homes, perhaps, who are major donors to the Conservative party).

The Tories had already gambled £22m chasing this impossible scheme ... and, like desperate gamblers on a losing streak, they kept betting more and more money in the hope that their number would eventually come up. **THAT WAS NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN. We decided to be the grownups in the room, to call an end to this losing streak, and to commit to finding a genuinely workable way forward.**

This approach was backed by a majority vote at Full Council. The consequence of being honest about the road being undeliverable was that all the money spent on the Tories' silly scheme needed to be de-capitalised. So, **Yes - £22m WAS WASTED – but it was wasted BY THE TORIES, not us.** We're holding the purse strings now, thank God! So there's no more playing games with public money and **we are progressing the delivery of an affordable, sustainable and resilient second city bridge.** Something that the city has always needed and richly deserves.

* <https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/19801320.worcesters-inrix-rank-among-uks-congested-cities>



The Conservatives published their own 'newspaper' full of misleading nonsense. For a full explanation of why their claims are such utter rubbish, go to the Myth Busting page. Meanwhile here are the headlines...



Planters were paid for out of a covid grant to improve the city centre, not from your council tax.

The 'bypass' was a Conservative waste of money. It would have encouraged more traffic at a time when we need to find ways to encourage less. Plus it would still take another 10 years to do and cost another £250 million+

Conservatives raised council tax by the full amount every year they were in power. Plus inflation was lower then.

Government directed all councils to reorganise bin collections with a greater emphasis on recycling. The public were consulted on the plans and a majority agreed with the new arrangements



Money spent on Hereford city centre is aimed at actually solving the cities transport problems, which these roads schemes never would.



Conservatives approved a massive increase in poultry farming without thinking of the effect of phosphates on our rivers. Now they try to blame us!

The new cycle lane was not our 'vanity project'. It was actually part of a scheme designed by the Conservatives. Costs went up because their design needed improvement.

Our Children's services have been in trouble since long before the Coalition took over. The headline cases date back to when the Conservatives ran the council. Funding has been under pressure for over 10 years.

The reason our rivers are so polluted is because Thatcher sold off our water to companies who want profit over nature. The Government still refuses to take the pollution of our rivers seriously, letting these companies discharge raw sewerage into our rivers.



Rural areas are undervalued by Government. It is they who spend billions on HS2 rather than local bus services. Not your council

Basically every story in their 'newspaper' is a total misrepresentation of the truth. Even the 'potholes have potholes' story conveniently forgets to mention that the government has slashed the money available to sort out roads while the cost of materials has gone up.

Find out more about Independents for Herefordshire on our website: www.i4H.org.uk