

PRESS RELEASE

Wednesday 28 May 2008 - for immediate use

ABERDEEN BYPASS CAMPAIGNERS RESPOND TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCEMENT CONFIRMING AWPR PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY

Campaigners to hold public meeting (this Friday 30 May 2008) to give details of arguments and evidence that they will present at the Public Local Inquiry into the proposed new road

Campaigners from Road Sense, (1) the community campaign against the proposed Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR), (2) will be holding a public meeting at 7.00pm on Friday 30 May 2008 at the International School of Aberdeen (3). Members of the media are welcome to attend. The public meeting has been scheduled in reaction to the Scottish Government's announcement today (4) that the Public Local Inquiry (PLI) into the AWPR will begin on 09 September this year (5).

At the public meeting, the Road Sense campaigners will update members of the public on recent campaign developments and activities, and will give details about the forthcoming PLI into the AWPR, including the arguments and evidence they intend to present.

The campaigners will also rally support, activism and funding from attendees at the meeting, who will be informed of the campaigners' successes so far, such as gaining the PLI into the proposed new road, despite their consistently experiencing misdirection, double-speak, withheld information and broken promises from Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Government Agency, Transport Scotland. The campaigners are still waiting to receive important documents from Transport Scotland, such as an up-to-date costing for the proposed new road and a full environmental analysis of the AWPR project.

The Road Sense campaigners will discuss how the scope of the PLI has been severely restricted by Scottish Ministers in a cynical ploy to push forward the AWPR regardless of the many relevant and important arguments against it. They will also explain how they are confident that they can successfully argue against the AWPR at the PLI, regardless of its limited scope and remit.

They will give information on the proposed new road's spiralling cost, its negative impacts on local communities, homeowners and landowners, its effect on traffic levels, pollution, wildlife and the local environment, and on local government funding and expenditure. They will discuss how the planning of the proposed new road, and the processes being followed to push it forward, have been flawed. They will also examine the proposed new road in the wider context of transport policy and climate change, and will discuss alternatives to the AWPR as proposed.

The Road Sense campaigners are inviting members of the public who are interested in the proposed AWPR to attend their public meeting. Previous public meetings held by Road Sense have attracted many hundreds of people. William Walton, Chair of Road Sense, said:

“Our public meeting will update members of the public on our recent campaign developments and activities, both positive and frustrating. We will give details about the forthcoming PLI into the AWPR, and will explain the arguments and evidence we intend to present to the PLI through our QC.”

“The scope of the PLI may have been cynically limited and restricted by Scottish Ministers in a cynical attempt to silence those who oppose the AWPR, and to push the proposed new road forward regardless of any opposition, but we are confident that we can still present a winning case against the AWPR to the PLI.”

“We will welcome anyone who is interested in the AWPR to our public meeting. At this stage, with the Scottish Government having confirmed that the AWPR PLI will go ahead in September this year, we are looking to involve and mobilise as many people as possible in our campaign for a more suitable solution to the transport problems of the north east.”

The Road Sense campaigners have been preparing for the AWPR PLI for several months now, and have their expert witnesses, legal team and public relations assistance in place.

Members of the media are welcome to attend the public meeting. The Road Sense campaigners will be available for interview, under embargo, before the public meeting.

ENDS

Media Contacts:

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Editors Notes:

1. Road Sense

Road Sense was formed in January 2006 and is a group that includes residents from across the Aberdeen area who are objecting to the proposed AWPR. See: www.road-sense.org

2. Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR)

More information on the AWPR can be found at: www.awpr.org

3. Road Sense Public Meeting

The meeting will take place at 7.00pm on Friday 30 May 2008 at the International School of Aberdeen, 296 North Deeside Road, Milltimber, Aberdeen, AB13 0A

4. Scottish Government Press Release

AWPR INQUIRY DETAILS CONFIRMED

A public local inquiry on the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route will begin on Tuesday, September 9. The inquiry will be held in the Hilton Aberdeen Treetops Hotel and is expected to last between eight and 10 weeks. The inquiry will focus on the technical and environmental aspects around the choice of route. Ministers have accepted the principle of

providing such a road. Inquiry Reporters will consider the evidence before submitting a report to Ministers for their consideration. If Ministers decide to proceed with the scheme, it will go to parliament for final approval. Confirmation of the arrangements have been sent to all statutory objectors or their agents, those parties who have indicated that they wish to give evidence to the inquiry and those who attended the pre inquiry meeting. Contact: Mark Hannan, 0131 244 2056.

5. Public Local Inquiry into the AWPR

The Public Local Inquiry into the AWPR will start at 10.00am on Tuesday 09 September 2008. It will normally sit four days each week (Tuesday to Friday) and will be held in the Cedar Suite, Hilton Aberdeen Treetops Hotel, 161 Springfield Road, Aberdeen.