

Local Action Group Delights in Short-list Success

After years of campaigning, members of M40 Chilterns Environment Group (M40CEG) received with delight the news that the proposal to quieten stretches of the M40 had moved a step closer to becoming a reality.

After considering over 300 proposals submitted by councils on behalf of their local action groups, the Local Government Association (LGA) short-listed 172 schemes. From that short-list the Secretary of State will evaluate and select the proposals it wants to implement.

Working in partnership with Wycombe District Council and South Oxfordshire District Council, M40CEG proposed that the Highways Agency take action to permanently reduce road noise through re-surfacing, improving sound barriers and implement speed and night time restrictions between junctions 3 and 8. The proposal, if agreed, could significantly improve the quality of life for the local residents along the stretch of the M40 at Loudwater, Wycombe and Lane End through to Wheatley in Oxfordshire.

As yet a timeline has not been confirmed by Government, but the LGA is pushing to discuss these proposals in the coming weeks and are hopeful that the process will be completed before the Easter recess.

The M40CEG group was formed in response to long standing concerns of residents that border this long stretch of motorway to the growing noise pollution.

Residents interested in supporting the proposal can write to the local MP asking them to support the proposal. Letter templates are available from the M40CEG website, www.m40-chilterns.org.uk.

Notes to Editors

For further details or to arrange an interview please contact Ken Edwards 01494 881266 or m40cc@btinternet.com

About M40CEG

The aims of the M40CEG are to enhance the natural and built environment for communities and public spaces bordering the 'old' part of the M40 Motorway ie between Junction 3 at Loudwater (Bucks) and Junction 8 at Wheatley (Oxon) through reductions in noise and other pollution caused by motorway traffic. In brief:

- To help reduce the impact of intolerable noise on daily life
- To improve the quality of life for local residents.
- To enhance the experience of visitors to the Chiltern Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve (NNR).
- To enhance the enjoyment of walkers and cyclist on our local and long distance path networks.

About Sustainable Communities Act

The Sustainable Communities Act aims to promote the sustainability of local communities. It begins from the principle that local people know best what needs to be done to promote the sustainability of their area, but that sometimes they need central government to act to enable them to do so. It provides a channel for local people to ask central government to take such action. It is also a new way for local authorities to ask central government to take action which they believe would better enable them to improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area.

About LGA

In 1997, local government came together and created the Local Government Association to be its voice in the national arena.

The 424 authorities who make up the Local Government Association cover every part of England and Wales. Together they represent over 50 million people and spend around £113 billion a year on local services. They include county councils, metropolitan district councils, English unitary authorities, London boroughs, shire district councils and Welsh unitary authorities, along with fire authorities, police authorities, national park authorities and passenger transport authorities.