

Oxford – Cambridge Expressway – UPDATE 23/12/19

NO EXPRESSWAY GROUP

Wishing you all a VERY merry Christmas &
splendid Expressway free 2020!



Actions

- **PLEASE sign our new petition!** – noexpressway.org/petition-signup
- **Hear all the latest news.** Sign-up on noexpressway.org/#newsletter for up to the minute news and updates
- **We urgently need to raise funds** to run our campaign and to pay for consultants and experts. *We must not wait. The time is now.* Please donate here donorbox.org/donate-to-no-expressway-group
- **Follow us & Share** - Facebook facebook.com/noexpresswaygroup/ and Twitter @no_expressway

What's new (for full details go to noexpressway.org/news-updates)

NEG challenge to candidates on the Ox-Cam arc

- **At the time of election 48 of the 98 candidates across the arc, pledged support for our campaign**, with one candidate refusing to support and another's response rather unclear. That's 49% of all candidates
- Candidates pledged from the Brexit, Conservative, Green, Labour, Liberal Democrats and the Official Monster Raving Loony Party, as well as independent candidates
- **Of the 20 MP's elected**, unfortunately only 6 had pledged their support as candidates. *They are:* Greg Smith (Buckingham, Conservative), Daniel Zeichner (Cambridge, Labour), Anthony Browne (Cambridgeshire South, Conservative), Ben Everitt (Milton Keynes North, Conservative), Anneliese Dodds (Oxford East, Labour), Layla Moran (Oxford West & Abingdon, Liberal Democrats).

Government Expressway Review?

- During the election campaign, Grant Shapps said he'd undertake a priority review of the Ox-Cam Expressway
- There was confusion with some candidates reported as saying it was a cancelled, whilst *it had not*
- **NEG has written to Grant Shapps three times now** and has even spoken with his constituency office staff who escalated this to his Chief of Staff. We have formally requested, as the biggest campaign group across the Ox-Cam Arc, to be a part of any priority review and to meet with Grant Shapps to discuss our involvement and how and when any review will happen. See our letters here noexpressway.org/press
- **We are very disappointed** that despite what Grant Shapps said during the election campaign, discussions on any Expressway review are not seen as a priority. **Given the depth of concern of communities** all along the Ox-Cam Arc and the increasing uncertainty of the scheme, this meeting **should in fact be a top priority**
- **NEG has asked** the six supportive MPs above to interced with Grant Shapps on our behalf
- **NEG has produced an email for supporters to send Grant Shapps** asking him to reconsider and meet NEG. **You can get the email wording here**
- **So, NEG's campaign is not over**, not until the Expressway and the target of one million houses are cancelled.

In the Press

- No Expressway Group has again had good media coverage with Oxford Times front page & page 2 article and page 22 Editorial about NEG's attempts to get information about the promised Expressway review and meet with Grant Shapps. Mix 96 website also picked this story up. noexpressway.org/news-updates

NEG Petition to STOP the Expressway!

- **If you haven't already done so, PLEASE sign our petition now! And get everyone you know to sign it too!** noexpressway.org/petition-signup **Every sign up makes our campaign stronger.** *Some people are saying they have already signed 'a petition about the expressway'. This is a new petition on the NEG website (not*

on change.org or Government website) and will give us the chance to stay in touch with you about petition news and the NEG campaign, if you wish.

Further NEG activities

- We continue the awareness-raising campaign with more signs going up and presentation at Ickford and contact made with all (over 400) Parish and Town Councils within 5km of the Ox-Cam Expressway corridor
- NEG has sent Christmas cards to all 20 Arc MPs, key ministers and secretaries of state, the Prime Minister, Chancellor, and leaders of all Arc District, City and County Councils, to remind them of our campaign and to wish them a happy expressway free 2020!

What's next

- Driving petition sign ups on site
- Working to get meeting with Grant Shapps to discuss the review and NEG's involvement
- Meeting with Highways England to discuss the consultation process - delayed to Jan 21st by HE

Events (see noexpressway.org events page for full details)

- 16th January – NEG will be presenting at a meeting for the Claydons villages
- 22nd January – NEG will be presenting at Cranfield Parish Council meeting (Date TBC)
- 27th January – NEG will be presenting at Ashfold School for Dorton Villages (Date TBC)

Please copy and paste the below letter into your email and send it to Grant Shapps at TransportSecretary@dft.gov.uk

Dear Grant Shapps

I am writing to you to ask you to urgently make time to meet with the No Expressway Group.

I am incredibly concerned about the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway and its associated over-inflated target for one million new houses across the Ox-Cam Arc.

This scheme would be devastating to the environment, wildlife and communities all across the Arc.

During the election campaign you said you would conduct an Oxford to Cambridge Expressway review, should the Conservative Party be re-elected to Government. So far, we have heard nothing more about this. When will this happen? How long will it take? Who will be involved? How will the review be conducted? What will be done to make sure any such review is transparent to all?

Given that you yourself said before the elections that the review was a priority, I am disappointed to hear that you have now indicated that you are too busy to meet with the No Expressway Group. In announcing the review, you said that the expressway scheme would go ahead only if it has "local support". How do you propose to measure such local support, given that no effort has been made by any Local Authority across the entire Arc to engage with any of the affected communities? The No Expressway Group has now talked with or given presentations to more than 35 communities from Oxford in the West to Woburn Sands in the East, and so is in a much better position than any other group to inform you of the public opinion about the expressway proposals across a very wide area.

I therefore ask that you agree to meet with the No Expressway Group as soon as possible and look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely