



Tom Levitt MP

Labour Member for High Peak

Our ref: D'EM001

March 2004

Dear Tony,

Over recent months and years, literally hundreds of people have contacted me, by petition and letter, to voice their support for the proposed Tintwistle-Mottram Bypass. I have always supported this campaign. It will bring greater road safety and peace to Tintwistle and remove the congestion blight from Glossop that has hitherto hampered the town's development.

The campaign for the bypass has been robust and effective. James Purnell (MP for Stalybridge and Hyde) and I joined local campaigners early in 2003 to present a petition to Parliament.

I was delighted to be present in Parliament in April last year when Alistair Darling, the Labour Transport Secretary, announced that the bypass was being restored to the government's roads programme. He made the decision after a secret visit to see the area himself, reversing the Conservatives' 1994 decision to drop the plan.

The Highways Agency, the Department for Transport, local MPs and councils all want the scheme to progress as quickly as possible. There are rumours that the project has been delayed. This is not the case. The procedure for appointing the contractor/designer has been changed which will delay the publication of the Draft Orders, but it will speed up the later parts of the process. For any project of this size, £85 million, a public enquiry is likely. The Draft Orders cannot be confirmed until the public enquiry has reported. **We still expect construction to begin in the financial year starting April 2006.**

We should have our road up in place in 2007. I want to thank everyone who has supported the campaign to turn this dream into – nearly! – a reality.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Levitt MP

20 Hardwick Street Buxton Derbyshire SK17 6DH

Tel: 01298-71111 Fax: 01298-71522 Minicom: 01298-71105

E-Mail: tomlevittmp@parliament.uk

Web Site: www.tomlevitt.org.uk