

The 60 Leicestershire towns and villages put 'on alert' over major road plan

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'This is not a theoretical plan'



The A46 near Leicester

Campaigners have highlighted Leicestershire's 60 towns and villages they want to put on alert over the proposed A46 Expressway.

The controversial proposal would, if it goes ahead, completely transform a swathe of eastern and southern part of the county as a by-pass for the city.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and the South and East Leicestershire Action Group have invited residents of areas they believe will be directly or indirectly affected by the huge scheme to attend a meeting about it next month.

They are concerned it will destroy the rural nature of a large part of the county and harm the environment.



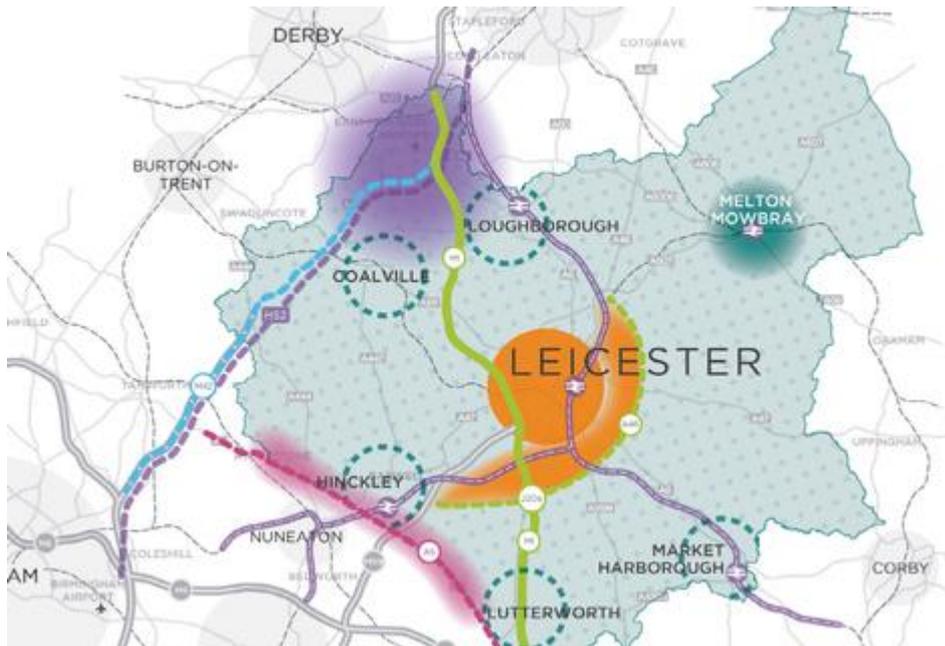
Planning for the future - the rough route of the A46 Expressway

The proposed road underpins a long-term strategy to find space in Leicestershire to build more than 180,000 homes by 2051 and would see a motorway-grade route sweep round the east and south of Leicester.

The expressway is proposed by Leicester City Council, [Leicestershire County Council](#) and the seven district authorities in a Strategic Growth Plan (SGP) designed to plan future population growth in the city and the county.

The SGP says the road would create a corridor where some 38,000 new homes and large amounts of industrial and commercial development could be built.

Its authors say there is no exact route but it will start at the Hobby Horse roundabout at Syston before arcing round the city and joining the M1 between Junctions 20 and 21 and then continuing to the M69 at Hinckley.



The CPRE has set up a task group to look in detail at the proposals.

Its chairman Tony Stott said: “This is not a theoretical plan.

“There are already proposals being formulated for a huge “garden village” and logistics site between Countesthorpe, Cosby and Willoughby Waterleys and a new J20A on the M1.”

He said he believed alternative approaches to the SGP had not been properly considered by the council.

No cost has been pinned to the project so far but estimates have been put at £1 billion and the scheme would need Government backing and funding and would be a major piece of the national transport network linking the South West to the East Coast.

The campaigner’s event will take place at the Coplow Centre in Billesdon at 7pm on April 4.

The 60 towns and villages invited to the A46 Expressway event

Arnesby

Keyham

Ashby Magna

Kibworth Beauchamp

Ashby Parva

Kibworth Harcourt

Barkby Kilby

Barkby Thorpe

Kings Norton

Beeby

Leire

Billesdon

Little Stretton

Bitteswell

Lowesby and Cold Newton

Broughton Astley

Lutterworth

Bruntingthorpe

Misterton

Burton Overy

Peatling Magna

Carlton Curlieu

Peatling Parva

Cosby

Queniborough

Cossington

Rearsby

Countesthorpe

Sapcote

Croft Scraptoft

Dunton Basset

Shearsby

East Goscote

Somerby

Elmsthorpe

South Croxton

Fleckney

Stoney Stanton

Frisby

Stoughton

Frolesworth

Syston

Gaddesby

Thurmaston

Gaulby

Thurnby

Gilmorton

Twyford and Thorpe Satchville

Glen Parva

Whetstone

Glenfield

Willoughby Waterleys

Great Glen

Wistow cum Newton Harcourt

Houghton on the Hill

Huncote

Hungarton

Illston on the Hill

Advocates of the road say it is the only way to effectively manage future growth.

They say it would relieve current congestion on M1 and A46 north west of Leicester.

A study by Midlands Connect - a group of councils and business leaders working with the [Department of Transport](#) - says the new road would boost Leicester's economy to the tune of at least £27.4 million a year by 2041.

The equivalent estimate for Harborough is £13.3 million, £12.3 million for Blaby, £8.5 million for Charnwood and £5.5 million for [Hinckley](#) and Bosworth.