

Earth to Earth Garden Centre
Stourbridge Road
Holly Hall
West Midlands
DY5 1LA

Graham Isherwood
Head of Traffic and Road Safety
Council House
Mary Stevens Park
Stourbridge
DY8 2AA

10th September 2003,

Dear Sir,

Re: RED ROUTE A461/A491 PHASE 2 PILOT RED ROUTE

I write on behalf of ACTION AGAINST the RED ROUTE (AARR) to update you of our latest campaign efforts.

We were dismayed to witness surveyors measuring the various sections of the route. Whilst your dismissive reply indicated that it was a "feasibility exercise" only, I am quite sure that the surveyors would be submitting an invoice, which I assume will be met from taxpayer's money, and all on a project that has not yet been voted through.

AARR members attended the Council Area Committee meetings that took place on 2nd and 4th September 2003. At these meetings we were able to once again raise our concerns and objections to the proposals and have succeeded in gaining the support of further councillors. The entire Central Dudley Area Committee gave a vote on the evening, which confirmed their support for the rejection of these plans.

We are now in communication with Jill Hulme from the Tenants Participation programme, as we have serious concerns about the disputes over parking that will arise throughout the community. Residents in local side streets have already begun to show hostility to the idea of having other vehicles parked in front of their homes.

We are aware that some of the residents are now voicing a desire to stage a protest along the routes which will undoubtedly bring disruption to traffic, and will of course attract media attention. AARR have discussed this matter with the individuals concerned, and hope that there will be no requirement for such a demonstration. However, we know that emotions are currently high amongst residents and whilst we shall continue to raise the concerns and objections in all future committee meetings, we are not in a position to actually prevent any individual, or group of people voicing their objection in another manner.

We believe that Councillors throughout Dudley, Stourbridge and Brierley Hill, together with Ian Pearson MP, are eager to bring true democracy into play, by supporting the people that they represent. For this our thanks are extended.

The fact of the matter is that a red route will not solve the traffic problems seen across the Dudley borough. May we also respectfully point out that there have been two recent television programs which have highlighted the problems a red route can create with regards to traffic-flow. Penalties that are to be inflicting on motorists will have no impact to them – but will bring chaos into the lives of residents.

We were told initially that sufficient objection would lead to the scrapping of the proposals. We have the full backing of many councillors and MPs, all residents and traders and family and friends of those along the route. We would suggest that this indicates an exceptional level of objection, and would ask that you inform the public of the only real option available – and that is to take these proposals no further.

I look forward to your comments at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully

Dean Seymour
Action Against the Red Route

CC: John Millar Director of Urban Enviroment.