

# The Whittlesey Masterplan – response...!

Having 'some' feedback from the recently publicised 'Masterplan' led by The Combined Authority. Also being fed the Social Media responses - I am asked for a comment...? Those who have read this Web-blog over the past 10 years, will know I have reported on many aligned subjects many, many times.

I am in no way criticizing anyone, be it Councils/Combined Authorities or unusually for me those who took their valuable time to post on Social Media.

There are many aspects to comment on, I'll take to task the Social Media comments firstly. If 'most' of those commentators who took the time to post on SM – then why did 'they' not find the time to comment to the public consultation when it took place. There was an open meeting in Whittlesey to which I did attend and report on.

'Everyone' and his dog (no disrespect) now 'wants' a By-pass – fine I do too...but let us be realistic. I have many times reported on 'how' major infra-structure projects are brought about – primarily, there has to be a cost-to-benefit ratio, i.e. for every £ spent there has to be an argument that a £ benefit will be returned in some form (economy for instance).

This is a complex formulae and is undertaken by so called experts who then produce a figure for example of 1 to 3 – in which case there is a benefit 3 times the cost and the argument which then substantiates to move forward (As with the Kings Dyke Crossing which has an unbelievable ratio of something like 1 to 8).

'We' the ordinary folk can not 'just' wish for something – Yes there are very solid arguments for a By-pass, but I quote FDC leader Cllr Chris Boden – *'This is a very long timescale away'*

I have reproduced an indicative diagram (courtesy of Mr Steve Hodson) of what 'one' idea of a By-pass might look like – there could be other options. All have 'risks' attached – for example – The soil and make-up of the land is challenging (That costs). The underlying low aspect of the land, rivers and railway lines to be crossed – just name a few.

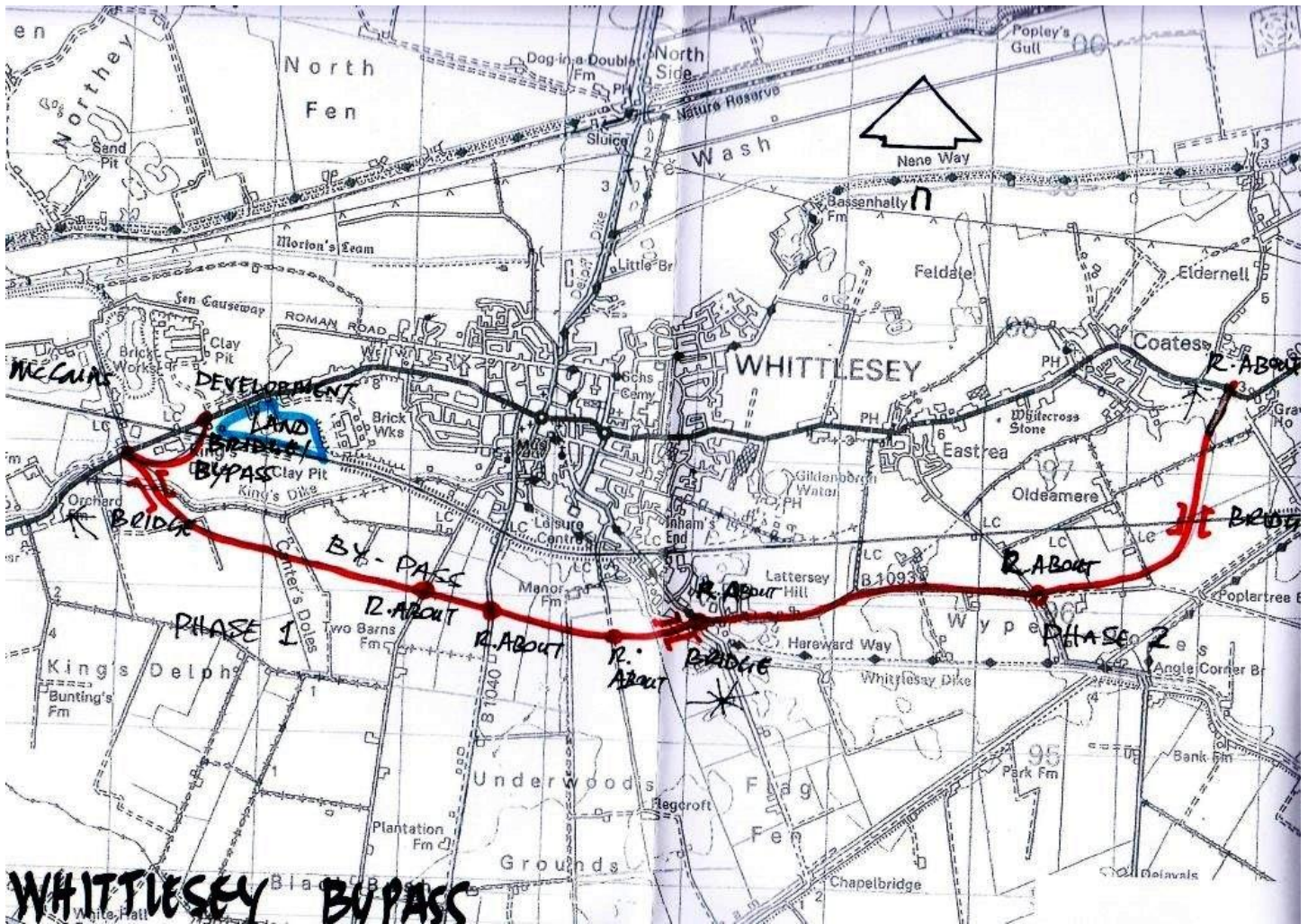
Ultimately - it (like the KD crossing) will come down to cost (cost-to benefit ratio as above). The 'village' of Thorney campaigned for well over 20/25 years to get a By-pass – So yes maybe now is the time for the Combined Authority & others to put this as an aspiration for the future, maybe 'we' or 'they' can keep it on the top table – we wait and see.

But I go back to the article in the Peterborough Telegraph™ - The writer/journalist was and is looking for a 'story' the Masterplan (draft) was already in the public domain – he was ultimately bringing it to a wider audience.

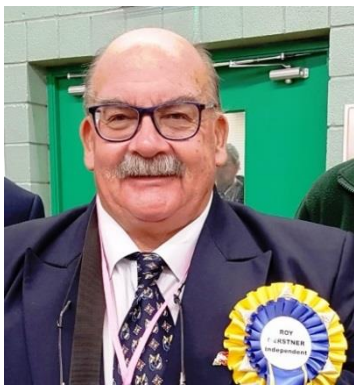
The responders/Social Media players did not have a 'plan' on how their wishes and dreams might come true. Yes their opinions do matter, then why not bring those views directly to either your Council – be it WTC/FDC or CCC or your own local Councillor (I am listening – I do read – I do take note) – vent off to your representative – ask them 'What are they doing about it'

Not everyone (believe it or not) is on SM and not everyone by a long way reads my Web-blog – but at least I am trying to explain the how/why and when sometime could or maybe happen.

Have another look at the indicative plan on the next page.



I am Roy Gerstner.



The Independent Councillor for St Mary's Ward South - Whittlesey Town Council.

Primarily I report on Council meetings & business to keep the electorate informed on both what I am actively involved with and in part other interests that I believe the electorate within Whittlesey & District may also wish to be informed.

My Web-Blog is community based and I report and comment on many other subjects.

I occasionally make a mistake and am more than happy to correct this if it pointed out to me.

If you have any issues or concerns outside of the St Mary's Ward South, please contact your own local Councillor. If you contact me – I am more than happy to forward onto them.

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