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Mr Rhun ap Gareth, Chief Executive
Conwy County Borough Council
By Email
24 September 2024

Re: B4406 Road Closure

Dear Chief Executive, Rhun,

I am writing to express my urgent concern over the closure of the B4406 road, which has resulted in significant disruptions to the daily lives of my constituents in the villages of Penmachno and Cwm Penmachno.

It is unacceptable that a decision of this magnitude was made without any prior notice or consultation with the local residents and stakeholders. The lack of communication has left my constituents unprepared, causing considerable inconvenience to individuals who rely on this road for essential access to schools, work, healthcare, and other daily needs.

While we understand the necessity of road maintenance and improvements, the impact of this closure has been exacerbated by a lack of adequate alternative routes and insufficient advance warning or consultation with those affected. The decision has left many in the community feeling frustrated and cut off.

The closure has forced residents to take one alternative route, over the Migneint via Ysbyty Ifan or Blaenau Ffestiniog that adds more than an hour to their travel times, causing severe inconvenience and hardship. I urge the council to reconsider this diversion and look into alternative, safer routes. The combination of poor lighting, narrow roadways, and difficult driving conditions significantly increases the likelihood of accidents, particularly in the dark.

I am especially concerned that this diversion will lead to a rise in serious incidents, potentially resulting in injury or loss of life. The safety of residents and visitors should be a top priority, and I fear that without immediate intervention, this diversion could lead to unnecessary harm.

The key issues we face are as follows:

- 1. Extended Travel Times:** Many residents, including commuters and those with medical appointments, are now forced to take detours that extend their journeys by over an hour. This is unsustainable and will cause undue stress and fatigue.
- 2. Public Transport Disruption:** Those who rely on public transport have been severely impacted, with no clear guidance or temporary services provided to mitigate the closure's effects. [cont...]



[cont...]

3. Lack of Consultation: There was no communication or consultation with the affected communities prior to the closure. This has left residents feeling unheard and unprepared for such a drastic change to their daily routines.

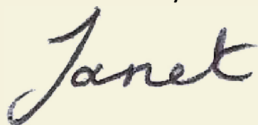
4. Economic Impact: Local businesses that depend on regular traffic from this road are suffering financially, with customers avoiding the area due to the extended travel times.

Given these significant concerns, I respectfully request an immediate review of this situation. At the very least, I expect:

1. Immediate exploration of temporary or alternative routes that reduce travel times for residents.
2. Clear, timely communication to the community regarding the duration of future closures and any ongoing developments.
3. A formal public consultation to engage the community and address their concerns, ensuring better planning and communication in the future.
4. The B4406 is a critical route for many in the area, and its closure has disproportionately affected the community. I trust that you will take immediate steps to address this matter and provide a clear response outlining the council's plans moving forward.
5. Open and transparent communication moving forward, ensuring that residents are kept informed of any future decisions that may affect our communities.
6. That consideration be given to limiting unavoidable road closures to after 9:00am and before 15:00pm.

I trust that you will treat this letter with the urgency it warrants, and I look forward to your prompt response. Indeed, it seems clear to me that your Local Authority and SP Energy's management of this project has been completely unacceptable so far.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet".

Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS