OBJECTION TO THE A701 Relief Road ([25/00521/DPP](25/00521/DPP))

I object to the proposed A701 Relief Road for the following reasons:

Midlothian Council has recently told the public that the Relief Road will save 3 minutes for people driving from Penicuik. This is only 180 seconds. At a cost of £55 million!

Midlothian Authorities is facing ongoing big budget reductions. Please do not waste so much public money on the Relief Road. The benefits are not value for money.

The Road will bring more cars to the Straiton and Burdiehouse roundabout junctions onto the Edinburgh Bypass. They are already too busy. This road does not make any sense.

Despite active travel proposals, families with children will continue to drive to shop at Straiton, as will households and families that come to live in all the new homes being built.

The road will make it unsafe for getting to school. Traffic going past the new Beeslack Replacement High School site will double. It is a narrow road. Pupils are being encouraged to cycle or walk to school. The increased traffic will make this dangerous. Any crossings will slow down traffic!

The road has no provision for buses. It will divide communities like Bilston, Damhead, and Loanhead. They will be cut off from Easter Bush and active travel routes including paths to the Pentland hills.

I don't want to see more Greenbelt land lost to a road. The Council say that the road will allow for yet more development and so more Greenbelt will be taken. This is not right.

We need our farmers to produce food so it does not seem right to lose yet more farmland in Midlothian, especially as so much recent and new housing is destroying prime agricultural land.

Food security is a major threat. We need farmland near our towns to be productive, not lost.

The road will destroy areas of woodland, wetland, grassland and hedgerows and will impact biodiversity. In addition, rural livelihoods, businesses and climate resilience will be damaged.

Your Faithfully,

Chris Wheeldon KY11 1LA   30/11/2025