

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1419  
Ein cyf/Our ref LW/00553/24

Dear Ken,

Thank you for having one of your staff forward to Jack Sargeants letter in response to my petition.

Unfortunately Jacks letter in no way shape or form addresses the issues, in fact ignores it really.

Equally unfortunately I have come across this email very late in the day – midnight day of the deadline. I had lost track of the original petition simply assuming that as the Senedd had completely ignored the peoples wishes over the 20mph, a fiasco of virtue signalling - as it continues to be – and almost beyond compare until the rest of the strategy is read, then what chance has a petition over an equally ridiculous “Transport Strategy” as a whole got?

But here we are.

*\*Caveat. Though I may use the word “you” I mean the strategy and its authors and champions.*

You claim in the plan that a three fold approach is going to be used to dictate the work, living, and transport habits of a the Welsh Nation and though it would be a hard change the people would have to put up it with because a very tiny minority decided its best.

You plan to Reduced the need FOR travel by;

- a) bringing jobs,
- b) services,
- c) facilities closer to where people live to make

- a) walking,
- b) cycling,
- c) public transport an attractive option

all to achieve a “decarbonised economy”, as published in Net Zero Wales. Seriously my main question is What Planet Are You Living On?

Lets address the first elephant in the room. Net Zero, even if “climate change” is real, then the UK as whole, if it went net zero tomorrow and forever would not have the slightest impact on the global climate. Wales – so negligible as not even worth of comment. Left wing socialist wishes do not replace facts. Wales 2020/21 estimated 36.3 million tons (36,300,000) of CO2. Globally for the same period the output was 36.3 giga tons (36,300,000,000) and that was just the energy sector alone. That's 0.1% which in itself is based only on an estimate by Wales and, as we learnt with Covid, estimates tend be way too high.

So, to attempt to save 0.1% worst case scenario CO2 emissions you are selflessly, albeit selfishly in actuality, going to plunge a country into turmoil. For what? Nothing, zero, zilch. The only thing you will do with your absurd Three Point Strategy is stifle the country and chase motorists for easy revenue, attacking the working man/woman – anybody who uses the roads or goes to work.

OK so some questions. (more of the white elephants)

In the last how many years did you achieve Bringing jobs to “where the people are” in Wales? We

don't all work from home, we're not all civil servants sat in their slippers or MSs being ferried around, we even fill our Universal Credit out online so no new dole offices, I don't see it, what have you brought where?

What increased services did you bring? Did you create more plumbers, electricians, joiners, nurses, doctors, mechanics, transport drivers, taxi drivers, bin men, carers, arborists, chemists, farmers? Perhaps you decreased hospital waiting times – oh no, you sacked Doctors by the hundreds instead, or perhaps you ensured the steel industry stayed here? Perhaps not eh?

Facilities? Oh please. Do you not remember Blair and his closing of cottage hospitals etc to “centralise” everything? And that was just the beginning of the destruction of the NHS in Wales and local “facilities”, Labour destroyed it in Wales now. Other facilities like leisure centres and youth clubs – closing the country over unless communities take them on like Plas Madoc, Wrexham – unusual though – labour nearly killed it.

This Strategy (I do struggle to keep a straight face typing that it literally is that ridiculous) to achieve something that you've never managed before, certainly won't manage now – and who in their right mind would want it to anyway all based on getting people walking, cycling and using public transport – all very good if you live and work in a city such as Cardiff or indeed in nAmsterdam where such an existence works to an extent but, Wales by 99.999% is not Cardiff city centre and it is 100% not Amsterdam city.

The transport system was destroyed many years ago when it was privatised and even before that when a lot of the smaller rail lines were closed. Later as car ownership increased train lines and bus routes were being cut. Currently Arriva Wales has many hundreds of subsidised routes already, they have to be subsidised because they are simply not profitable and which private company is going to run a route at a loss? And, though subsidised to the max already, still many routes are simply not covered. How are you going to pay for all of these routes to be covered by public transport that is reliable and frequent and not electric (no charging or safety infrastructure and won't be for at least a 100 years in my opinion) and covers almost every road? You'd have to privatise it and that would cost way too much and become too inefficient.

The public transport industry struggles enough to encourage people to use it simply because of convenience alone, the personal transport always wins. There's also the fact if you force cars off the road the transport companies then have the monopoly and conditions will plummet; Wales is not Japan. You cannot deliver a better public transport system with this plan.

You are aiming to create a country sized version of London's, its ULEZ, and (now defunct) no car zones, for no reason. Imagine a single mum of 3 trying to get her kids to 2 different schools on a morning top of Tonyandy, no car, maybe a pram..... electric bus frozen but she has to get to work in Barry or be sanctioned by UC... walking, cycling and the bus. To quote you “Walking and cycling are often the first and last part of many longer public transport journeys” No they are not at all – seems like very very strict census gathering to me. Cloud cuckoo land.

The plan IS literally a childish wish list with a mish mash of climate, economics, social well being and who knows what, that's not being insulting, it's a simple fact. The whole plan is a joke that needs experienced real world adults working on it, not career politicians with something to prove, or a path to gouge out, which so far is how authoritarian and straight minded they look as well as lacking in real world experience.

The rather condescending letter Jack sent pontificated on about introducing 20mph for safety reason

which, as we all know was originally touted as emissions reductions, which is funnily enough not part of the original three part plan at all. However, the 20mph limit is ridiculous and asking individual communities to choose is singularly THE most ridiculous part of it particularly as it includes his “officials”. Name each one and tell me what they are official in.

I worked the roads for 5 years in this country and a number of others rurally and within cities. Slowing moving traffic, ie below 30 makes people less aware and far more complacent of slower vehicles leading to more issues. For movement of traffic it creates problems such as long tail backs, far more phantom breaking, riskier manoeuvrers, long snakes of uninterrupted traffic stopping side access. A lot of this data with why 30 was chosen is in archive from the 1920s, 30s, and 40s when all of this was done before. However the blanket 20mph (and community requests) should all be removed. The people created THE largest petition in Wales ever and you arrogantly are ignoring it; disgusting and dictatorial.

This Strategy is a level of ineptitude that would fail an O level assignment where no climate change, or CO2 emissions, or woke virtual signalling existed. Put this plan in its entirety and VERY very publicly to the people to see the results, and then file it under B1N with its originator.

Remove the 20mph plan today. Revoke this terrible “Strategy” as a whole today.

Remove any ministers promoting it, fix the roads and get the arteries AND capillaries of Wales' productive workforce flowing today.

Though written over 3 hours in the middle of the night I hope, given the current climate of political change especially, that you come to your senses, and scrap this idea.

This is not a strategy at all, its an easy revenue war on motorists as well as what seems like some silly idea to impose 15/45 minute towns and cities on the populous, and will certainly sound the death bell for Wales – has my petition got?