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### **Plans for the new M4 motorway around Newport**

Dear Sirs,

I write to **express my full support** for the current plans for the new M4 motorway around Newport. It is my sincere hope that this will go ahead in its current form.

I am relatively new to the area, having moved here from London approximately two years ago to take up a professional post, with a large Newport employer that attracts people nationally. My plan on arrival was to complete the training period and then move away to work from home, since settling in Newport seemed out of the question. However, immediate peers and I have, in a short span of time, awoken to the excellent regeneration that is happening in Newport. As I've mentioned, I lived in London immediately before Newport and am originally from Manchester – yet never before have I seen a single development (Friar's Walk) change the character of a city so immediately and successfully. We have our eyes on the Renaissance Point development too.

One major problem with Newport is the congested and outdated existing M4 section, which carves through what seems to be some of the better suburban and family-oriented areas, deterring those looking to settle in that way. It is a problem that cannot simply remain unaddressed. Quite simply, if Newport is to continue its regeneration and progress as it should, it needs the M4 as proposed to be built.

I am not unsympathetic to environmental concerns. I have myself enjoyed many days' walks around the Gwent levels. I understand that objectors on environmental grounds will be vociferous and many. However, that is not a reason to ignore the wishes of the tacit majority who either have no strong view on the matter or are positively in support of the M4 plans. I am, I'm quite certain, one voice of many thousands who support the plans, but one who unlike others will sit down and write this letter. That is, I believe voices in support of the plans will be largely unrepresented.

I attended one of the public presentation sessions at the Lysaght Institute. I was keenly impressed with the level of thought that has been given to such environmental and other concerns. The route of the new section will have minimal impact to the Gwent levels. It was also a pleasure to see that the junctions joining the new section to the existing M4 have been thoroughly thought through and plenty of room has been given for the necessary lane changing – another small worry I had.

I am also pleased to see that the placing of junctions on to the new section has been carefully considered, though my only overall minor criticism at all is that I think there are still too many – I

would have thought that a maximum of one junction onto the new section was appropriate and think that the Docks Way junction may become congested. Still, there are no junctions directly onto the SDR and this is as it should be.

There is no doubt in my mind that Newport needs the M4 development and it is one of many schemes that, should they come to light, will continue to make my and others' decisions to remain and settle in Newport that much easier.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Thomas Burns