

PLANNERS TABLE NEW ROAD LINK

Highways chiefs set to press ahead

By Echo reporter

PLANS are being drawn up for a new road link with Sefton's controversial blue route.

Councillors will consider the path it would take at a meeting tonight.

A decision on the blue route is still awaited a year after a public inquiry ended.

But the highways committee has decided to press ahead with further plans in the hope that the Secretary of State will give his approval soon.

The blue route is planned to stretch to Switch Island, Aintree and Ince Blundell.

One of the options now being considered is for a road linking with the blue route at Thornton going through the Rimrose Valley to Bridge Road, Litherland.

Other options include the upgrading of the A565 through Crosby.

Conservative highways spokesman Tom Lewis said: "We have already had a seminar on the options for further ways to improve traffic flows in the area."

"The favourite seems to be the Rimrose Valley option which would link with the Blue Route."

"Hopefully a decision will be made on that road soon by the Secretary of State."

Sefton's highways chief Geoff Cowie added: "The Rimrose Valley route gives the best value for money and result in the lowest level of intrusion and inconvenience to industrial and residential areas."

Highways councillors will make a decision at a meeting tonight.

DNA database

A PILOT study into setting up a national DNA genetic fingerprint database has been announced by Home Secretary Michael Howard.

MPs in embryo battle

By David Walmsley

TWO Merseyside MPs have launched a national petition against proposed research into the use of eggs from aborted fetuses to create embryos for women who cannot have children.

Bootle MP Joe Benton and David Alton, MP for Mossley Hill, were among the first to put their names to a petition demanding the practice be banned.

Mr Benton said: "The suggested technique is repugnant and we must do all we can to stop it."

David Alton added: "We are dealing with fellow humans who have a right to protection."

The petition is organised by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

Romania meeting

WIRRAL Council's EuroWiral team is appealing to all groups involved in support work in Romania to attend a joint meeting.

It aims to bring them all together under one roof to explore ways in which the EuroWiral initiative can help.

The meeting will be at Wallasey Town Hall on Tuesday, March 1 at 6 pm.

ECHO Travel Watch



ROADS

GATECRE BROW, GRANGE LANE, HALEWOOD ROAD: Traffic lights switched off and lane restrictions for gas repairs. Long delays expected.

VALLEY ROAD, KIRKBY: Lane restrictions between Coppel House Lane and M57. Motorists advised to avoid area.

NORTHERN PERIMETER ROAD, NETHERTON: Temporary traffic lights for roadworks. Delays expected.

LUNT ROAD, LUNT: Road closed between Long Lane and Back Lane.

SEFTON LANE, MAGHULL: Temporary traffic lights near junction of South Liverpool Road South 9.30am to 4pm for BT work.

PROMENADE, SOUTHPORT: Diversion via Knowsley Road and Saunders Street.

PARK ROAD, ORMSKIRK: Resurfacing work near junctions with St Helens Road, Moorgate Street and Aughton Street.

CHURCH ROAD, GARSTON: Temporary traffic lights in operation due to bridge repainting.

LEASOWE ROAD, LEASOWE: Delays likely for motorists heading towards Leasowe due to roadworks.

GARRICK PARADE, SOUTHPORT: Closed for refurbishment.

ADELPH STREET, BIRKENHEAD: Road closed between Conway Street and Price Street, diversions in operation but delays likely.

M6, JUNCTIONS 20 to 21A (LYMMCROFT): Contraflow due to roadworks. Slip roads from northbound M6 to westbound M62 and from M62 to southbound M6 closed from 9pm Friday to 6am Saturday. Diversions signposted.

M56, JUNCTIONS 11 to 12 (PRESTON BROOK/RUNICOPIN): 50mph limit on westbound carriageway. No entry at Junction 11 westbound and Junction 12 eastbound. Diversions signposted.

Junction 11 access slip road closed, diversions in operation.

Information supplied by AA Roadwatch. For more information phone 0336 401115

TRAINS

Cancellations on Northern Line from February 5 to 13 for installation and testing of signalling system.

Replacement buses. Leaflets from Merseytravel shops and stations and information posted on trains and at stations.

February 5 to 9 no trains between St Michael's and Bootle Oriel Road, between Liverpool Central and Rice Lane and between Liverpool Central and Walton.

February 10 to 13 no trains between St Michael's and Bootle Oriel Road, between Liverpool Central and Kirby and between Liverpool Central and Ormskirk.

BUSES

No changes scheduled.

TUNNELS

QUEENSWAY TUNNEL: Two middle lanes closed from 7pm to 6am for maintenance.

KINGSWAY TUNNEL: Liverpool bound tunnel closed 9.30am to 3.30pm and 7pm to 6.30am.

For more information on trains, buses and ferries, ring Merseytravel Line on 051 236 7676 (seven days a week 8am to 9pm).

FLIGHTS

Liverpool Airport Information 051 488 8077. Main Airlines for sale of fares, Baggage and Duties 0345 256256; Ryanair for Dublin 071 435 7101; VLM to London City and Antwerp 0828 485089; ATS Vulcan to Southampton 0238 563930.

New inquest into death of MP will be in autumn

By Barry Turnbull

A NEW inquest into the death of former Bootle MP Mike Carr is not expected to take place until the autumn.

Wirral coroner Christopher Johnson has been appointed to hear the matter in Liverpool.

Mr Carr, 43, died from a suspected heart attack 15 minutes after being discharged from Walton Hospital in July 1990.

An initial inquest opened and adjourned by Liverpool coroner Roy Barter was written off the record books after a High Court ruling that the jury had not been summoned correctly.

A spokesman said: "With so much evidence to go through it is unlikely the inquest will take place until the autumn."

'Fear' tax attacked

MINISTERS are making money from people's fears by slapping tax on insurance premiums, a Merseyside MP claims.

The tax will raise £750m a year to help pay off the government's £50bn debt.

But Wallasey MP Angela Eagle told Paymaster General Sir John Cope that the move "taxes people's security."

The 3% tax on insurance policies starts in October.

In the bag

FIVE Romanian stowaways were being interviewed by immigration authorities after being captured trying to break out of a dockside container at Felixstowe.

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