



Activity sheet

Fact or Opinion?

Read the following news report. Make a note of the points which are **facts** and the points which are the writer's **opinion**.

Bridge plans set to bring traffic chaos to area

Reporter: Martina Shenfield

Outrageous new plans are being made to build a bridge across the River Severn at Sharpness which will bring traffic chaos to the county. The bridge will connect the south of Gloucestershire with the Forest of Dean. The new road bridge will replace the old railway bridge that was destroyed following a collision of two oil tankers in October 1960. There are currently three bridges that local drivers can access with little difficulty – two close to Bristol just 8 miles south and one twelve miles north of Sharpness.

Local residents predict that a bridge built at Sharpness would bring so much traffic into the area that it would be a disaster. Mr Farnworth, who has lived in Sharpness for the past forty years, said, "The local council hasn't thought this through. They've talked about building new roads through to the bridge but that could bring years of upheaval in the Sharpness area while they're building them. Also, once it's built I imagine there will still be more traffic than the roads can cope with. It's a disgrace!"

The local roads planning committee say they have done a full analysis of the situation and promise that the new bridge would help cope with traffic wanting to cross the River Severn into the Forest of Dean and bring minimum disruption to the local community. Yet local residents are up in arms at the proposals saying that it will destroy their community, increase pollution in the area and make it unsafe for children.

Head of the local roads planning committee, Mrs Shaw was unavailable for comment and residents have accused her of burying her head in the sand and ignoring their concerns.

If the plans go ahead the bridge would be started in 2025.

Your opinion? Tell us what you think of these plans and how they would affect the quality of your life. Email us at info@sharpnessgazette.co.uk