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Turn to the right road for progress

I write to ask those people who have favoured routing the proposed M3 motorway through the Valley of Tara to reconsider their position and support a re-route of the M3 and the establishment of a Tara Valley World Heritage Park, as set forth by the drafters of the Meath Master Plan.

Previous arguments in favour of the current route have relied upon three staple points:

1. A solution must be found to the traffic problems faced by Meath commuters.
2. The needs of living, breathing citizens of Meath are more important than the sanctity of the long dead.
3. All of this uproar and protest should have been voiced years ago.

The first argument is one we can all agree on. The question proponents of the alternative route ask is: "How can the longer route currently under construction serve commuters better than the shorter proposed western route?"

No reasonable answer has been given.

Most transport experts agree the solution to congestion is not bigger roads but better public transport.

The second argument is also true, and though the protesters have often cried, "Tara has been sacred for 5,000 years," in fact what they are truly saying is that "Tara is sacred now. Tara is sacred to us, the citizens of Meath and the rest of the world."

The final point is again true; voices should have been raised years ago when the route was first proposed.

In fact, they were. People like Conor Newman and Joe Fenwick (and many more) have been opposing this route since it was proposed over four years ago, but it has taken a great deal of time to get the word out to the greater public.

Three arguments set forth by those in favour of the current M3 route, all excellent reasons to reroute the M3.

CS Lewis said: "We all want progress, but if you're on the wrong road, progress means doing an about-turn and walking back to the right road."

Two years from now, as you stroll with your family through the Tara Valley World Heritage Park, having negotiated the now-painless evening commute in time to watch the sunset over the M3, you will be glad to have taken the right step towards progress.

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