

[REDACTED]
Market Hill

Cawston

14 March 2019

Dear Sir or Madam

I would like to take the opportunity to outline some of the issues the Vanguard project will bring for us as residents and business owners in the centre of Cawston.

First of all although we understand that Parish Councils were being used as conduits to the community some form of direct communication should have been made with those most affected by such a major scheme. Bearing in mind the expense and complexity of the project this would have been relatively easy and low cost. Every household receives the local council magazine too and an article could have been included clearly outlining the possible negatives (as well as positives) of the scheme.

We live in the very centre of the village [REDACTED] Despite being on a B class road it is still a rural feeling village so this will radically change the feel of the place not just for a few months but for years. This is not what we moved to.

We also run a successful holiday cottage which we don't feel we will be able to do when the traffic starts. People already notice and are amazed by the size of lorries going to the Winery but this additional traffic of one HGV every 2-3 minutes plus small vans and staff cars will seriously impact on their holiday and therefore we do not feel it right to continue. This is our income but it is also a significant extra support for local shops and services.

The worst aspect of traffic as homeowners and for holiday makers is the inevitable backing up of traffic behind the bus and school buses which all stop in the square. The vibration, noise and fumes from 2 or 3 large diesel engine vehicles waiting for up to 5 minutes every time there is a hold up really detracts from the pleasure of living here. With the extra traffic this will hugely increase. If you don't believe vibration is a problem then see how our windows move and how cracks appear in our studwork walls upstairs. Also smell the diesel fumes build up at these times.

Due to the terraced nature of the street few people have any choice but to park on the street. The casual parking for the deli is very variable sometimes just 2 or 3 cars sometimes 9 or 10. We often cannot park anywhere and so have to park outside our house (on the corner). There will be considerable difficulty for the HGVs in passing the cars and there will be frequent problems as traffic builds up behind.

The danger and intimidation felt walking around the village centre will be greatly increased. This in turn affects business as people stop walking to the shops and pub but importantly it affects community as people stop walking around and therefore all the social interaction, particularly with the rail line walk, park and village hall being at the end of the village. Technically the road just east of

the deli and west by the rail bridge may be wide enough for 2 HGVs and the centre for a parked car and HGV but as someone who does walk around the village it is extremely intimidating with wing mirrors often overlapping the narrow pavements and larger vehicles frequently mounting pavements. **This is doubly so if you have a dog, push chair / walking aid or small child. HGVs do not drive within the white lines as was proved on every occasion at the recent site visit. Between the last house and the Village Hall the pavement is perhaps only 50-90 cm wide at a pinch point for traffic.**

Whatever the restrictions on speed many vehicles will not observe speed limits. Of course this is true of most villages but in Cawston there are several blind spots (going west from the mini market into the centre and east just past the village hall). These blind spots are also popular crossing places and we are concerned that speeding staff traffic and HGVs will add to this problem. Moreover the central section of the High Street and the turning to Chapel Lane are notorious logjams that leave vehicles blocked for several minutes resulting in HGVs often reversing up the road. Also drivers coming in to the High Street from the west past the village hall don't expect and cannot see the back up of traffic behind the parked cars and often are close to collision.

We hope you will consider this and offer some alleviation of the problems for us such as

- **Increasing designated car parking particularly in the centre**
- **Reducing speed limits, widening and raising pavement heights with posts/ chicanes where possible to reduce the intimidation from vehicles**
- **Redirecting as much traffic as possible along the Heydon Road route thus reducing hugely the impact of traffic on all of us with almost no other housing being impacted on**
- **Moving the Regular and even School bus stop just 100m further out to the Minimarket east of the centre where there is no blind spot and houses set further back (allowing for safer waiting too)**
- **Restricting the HGVs to 9.00-5.00 (with another restriction as Schools finish)**
- **Looking again at Lorries from the Winery and see if they can use the road going northwards for lorries leaving *and* arriving**
- **Offering specific compensation for businesses and houses (glazing improvements would be a big improvement but costly for individuals) and gestures of investment into the village.**

Yours sincerely

David Vince & Nicola Draycott