

[REDACTED]

Ms Kathryn Powell
Case Leader
Infrastructure Planning Commission
Temple Quay House
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6PN

4th March 2012

Dear Ms Powell

A556 Improvement Scheme

I refer to various proposals for the above, all of which, ill-considered and inappropriate as they may be, all seem to be based on the alleged fact that this road is the busiest rush hour road in the country. This statement is made repeatedly and does not appear to carry any weight of evidence. In view of this please could you explain, clearly, without jargon and in writing, the following?

- What method was used to arrive at the claimed statistic?
- What other roads were used in the comparison, presumably every road in the country as the claim is that the A556 is the busiest rush hour road in the country?
- When was the comparison actually carried out?
- Were all roads compared at the same time of day and the same day of the week?
- Were allowances made for weather conditions?
- Were incidents on surrounding roads taken into account? For example on Junctions 19 and 20 of the M6 there is a serious incident every two or three days and this clearly and dramatically impacts on the volume of traffic on the A556 and also the speed at which it moves.

- A like for like comparison with all other roads seems logistically impossible; kindly explain how this task was actually completed as it appears to form a major part of the argument in favour of the current proposals but equally would appear to be lacking any demonstrable substance.
- I would like you to provide the dates on which the A556 traffic surveys took place so that it can clearly be seen that they did not coincide with any major events at Tatton Park or Tabley Hall which would obviously impact upon the results.

A further question which has only just become apparent is that, as you are probably aware, if not please check it out, a company trading as " Bewilderment" is applying to open a massive theme park/activity park in nearby Tatton Park. This will lead to a huge increase in traffic from all motorway exits into the area covered by the A556 Improvement Scheme proposals. The area already struggles to cope with the increased traffic created by occasional events at Tatton Park, many of which have to have road closures and police presence. It is clear therefore that none of your existing proposals could cope with a regular increase of traffic volume and neither was the "Bewilderment" proposal known about at the time your various options for the road improvements were drawn up. It now stands to reason that each and every one of your proposals is hopelessly inadequate and needs a complete rethink.

It is quite evident that there is no point whatsoever in pursuing any of the current options until such time as the ramifications of the "Bewilderment" project are considered, fully understood and taken into account. Surely the general public does not want to see already scarce funding squandered on a highway scheme that in a few short years will be totally inadequate and obsolete because plans that were already in the pipeline were possibly ignored by the various authorities and agencies. Now, more than ever, this scheme must be looked at as a national, not just local issue. At this time a temporary quick fix is not the answer and future traffic volumes are not predictable until such time as the "Bewilderment" scheme has completed the planning process, therefore all current proposals must be null and void.

I look forward to receiving your constructive and written response which genuinely looks at the future requirements and not just the immediate need to spend allocated funds regardless of how inappropriately this is done.

Yours sincerely

[Christopher Matthews](#)

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