

IPC

12 MAR 2012

REF:

Kathryn Powell, Case Leader  
IPC  
Temple Quay House  
Temple Quay  
Bristol  
BS1 6PN

8 March 2012

Dear Ms Powell,

A556 "Improving the Environment" Knutsford to Bowdon

- 1 Please register me as an interested party in this development.
- 2 The euphemistically-titled document "A556 Improving the Environment" has been circulated widely in the areas affected by this road development, and beyond, but it gives a very unfair and misleading view of the anticipated effect of the new road. For example, whilst the maps show all the houses to the east of the existing A556, none of the dwellings to the west of the road is shown, leading to the impression that it is open countryside. This is far from the case.  
  
It is very dubious to use the word "Improving" when describing this scheme, as, in all its forms and options, it will be an environmental disaster for the countryside and villages to the west of the existing A556. This area, and the effect upon it, seems to have been largely ignored in the process of arriving at the current proposals, and the residents here were not consulted until the plans were already drawn.
- 3 Related to the issue of environment, there seems to be no thought or understanding of the aspects of road safety on the many lanes in the High Legh and Millington areas that will be affected by this development. These lanes are already very dangerous, with many blind bends and single-track carriageways. Any increase at all in the traffic on the lanes will create enormous risk to all forms of road user - walkers, cyclists, equestrians, farmers, etc. There is already a high incidence of accidents. At our house alone in the recent past we have had four separate incidents - two vehicles collided with and damaged our property due to loss of control by the drivers, and two domestic pets have been killed because of lack of due care by motorists. And such incidents are very common all around the area.  
  
The proposal will have the effect of pouring a huge amount of extra traffic into the area whenever there is a problem on the M6 or M56 motorways. The Knutsford section of the M6 very frequently has traffic delays and accidents, and this scheme will cause chaos when traffic tries to find ways around the area. This is already a problem now, but the design of the new road will make it many times worse.

- 4 The link road proposed from Millington Hall Lane to Chapel Lane should be deleted forthwith from all options of this plan. This would greatly exacerbate the problems of traffic and road safety, by feeding many additional vehicles into the narrow lanes.

Please consider the issues I have raised, and try to ensure that this scheme will not proceed in its current form.

Thank you very much.

Yours sincerely,

Nigel Packer

cc The Right Hon George Osborne MP, House of Commons  
Jeremy Bloom, Senior Development Manager, Highways Agency  
Ms J Greening, Sec of State for Transport  
Ms C Spelman, Sec of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs