

Kieron & Alison Dunk

The Limes, The Green

Hilton, PE28 9NA

11<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Ref: A14-AFP935

Ms Frances Fernandes

Lead Member of the Panel of Examining Inspectors

The Planning Inspectorate

3/18 Eagle Wing

Temple Quay House

2 The Square

Bristol, BS1 6PN

Ref: **A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme**

Dear Ms Fernandes

Following my registration as an interested party, would now like to submit my detailed representations.

### **Detailed representation**

We are long term residents of Hilton, and I (Kieron), am a Parish Councillor and a member of the Parish Council A14 work group. Prior to this I was also a member of a similar group set up to represent Hiltons interests during the CHUMBS consultation. As such I have become very familiar with the issues surrounding the improvement for the A14 and the current DCO application.

### **Public consultation**

Over the course of this public consultation we are saddened by the apparent lip-service given to the views of the parishioners of Hilton by Highways England (HE). The process has been a box ticking exercise leaving us and our neighbours frustrated and somewhat exasperated as to how to find a fairer solution for Hilton.

It has become obvious HE started this consultation process with a design in mind and has shown little appetite to reevaluate their thinking. We do not believe all options have yet been explored to find a viable region wide transport solution giving the tax payer value for money. For instance HE confirmed in a resent face-to-face meeting in Hilton that they have not conducted a study to incorporate the effects of the proposed improvements to the A428 or have any plans to do so.

It is clear the current road is not capable of carrying the projected volume of traffic, however upgrading this road and improving the traffic flow through the interchanges must be a more viable, cost effective solution than losing yet more valuable agricultural land. HE is currently working on the improvement of the section running North of Cambridge which has been managed well with little interruption to traffic flows.

HE has not made a case as to why this would not be possible on the Cambridge to Huntingdon section especially when you consider the money which has been spent recently improving the flyover at Huntingdon. I am confident The Planning Inspectorate will scrutinise HE's application but I also urge a full review of other options so we do not sleep walk into this extremely expensive and damaging scheme as presented in the DCO.

Over the course of the public consultation I have a growing sense of unease that HE is managing their expert data to give the answers they need. I realise this is a damning statement.

An example; HE claims that "*no significant residual adverse effects from noise or air pollution are predicted for Hilton.*" Clearly, a six lane road less than a mile from Hilton will have a major impact on the quality of life for Hilton residents. Therefore this response, so counter to common sense, does bring into question the credibility of HE's responses when challenged on the effect of the new road and indeed the traffic flow, noise and pollution modelling done to date which HE relies on to back their responses.

This modelling is underpinning much of the design proposal for this scheme. Sadly this data is not accessible, neither are the underlying premises upon which the modelling is based. It would be very easy for these conclusions to be "managed". In the interest of public transparency I would urge the Planning Inspectorate to independently verify this data with other experts.

Throughout the process we have been told by HE more detailed information would be available as we go through the examination period. It is now clear that this detailed information will not be available in time to conduct a meaningful consultation with the interested parties.

### **Mitigation**

Having decided to take the route south of Huntingdon HE have confirmed that the line of the new road has been chosen to move traffic away from conurbations, specifically Fenstanton, the Hemingford's and Godmanchester.

In effect the residents of Hilton are being asked to pay a significant price should this scheme go ahead for what we are told is for the national and now local interest. Should effective mitigation measures be incorporated within the scheme then this will go some way to a just solution for all. Sadly the mitigation measures outlined in the DCO are not effective enough to protect Hilton.

We have been told by HE that they cannot specify a higher quality of mitigation measures against noise and light intrusion beyond a level stipulated by national guidelines. They have indicated that should they be instructed to do so by the Planning Inspectorate then they will improve the design.

We are hoping The Planning Inspectorate will not approve the DCO and the grounds of poor public consultation and the enormous waste of land and money this HE scheme will involve. However should the scheme be approved we ask that Hilton's position be given special consideration and urge The Planning Inspectorate to make such a recommendation for improved mitigation measures.

Earth banks 5m above the new road height plus acoustic panelling and planting to soften the effect is what is required. In consideration of the cost and impact of this scheme this should not be too much to ask.

Yours faithfully

Kieron & Alison Dunk