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Planning Inspectorate
By email

15th June 2015

Dear Sirs

Your reference: TR010018
Registration ID: 10030852

Written representation on the Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Improvement Scheme

Please find below my written representations on the above subject.

Noise: I live in the centre of Hilton and, when the wind is in the right direction I cannot even hear the birds in my garden as it is drowned out by the existing A14! I am extremely concerned at the impact the proposed development will have on noise levels in the village and my fears are not allayed by the Highways England responses. Whenever I asked them anything about it in the exhibitions, I could not get a straight answer!

Accompanied Site Visits: I was dismayed to note that the accompanied site visits do not appear to include a visit to the centre of Hilton, yet appear to be going everywhere else affected by the route. I have heard Highways England refer to Hilton as one of the losers in the development and your avoidance of our beautiful village just serves to confirm my fears that the route was always going to be the one first proposed in the last decade. It would appear the planners have not learned anything in the last 13 years!

Consultation: I attended all the local consultation meetings run by Highways England. In each one the representatives of Highways England were unhelpful or simply did not know the answers to questions. I was told more than once that it wasn't their fault and to take it up with Government as it was their decision. This was capped with the "Hilton are the losers" debacle. I do not feel like I was consulted and got the impression that it was going to go with the preferred route regardless, it leaves me feeling very angry and frustrated! To read that our MP then said that the development is a done deal and is happening together with Highways England appointing construction companies and more designers BEFORE the end of the examination period shows the contempt they hold locals with and just makes me even more certain that the consultation was a pretence.

I implore you to strongly consider this point?

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Tranquillity: I am reaching the end of my working life having bought up a family and paid my taxes on my way. I spent 3 years searching for a suitable home in my later years and eventually found Hilton. Of particular importance to me is the tranquil nature of the village. I accept things do need to change, that is progress after all. However, I do not accept the intrusion into the existing tranquil nature of the village that will undoubtedly be caused by the new A14 being just over 800 m from my home when there are alternatives that will not create these problems for Hilton, or indeed, any other local communities. I believe I have a right to maintain the tranquillity I spent so long in finding.

Hilton has, to date, avoided many of the development woes that we have imposed on many similar villages in the last 6 decades. I was encouraged by Right Hon John Hayes MP's speech about beautiful roads and absolutely embrace his vision. I appreciate that the speech was made after the start of the development process, but, it is not too late to change. If this development is allowed to go ahead as proposed it will destroy the tranquil nature of Hilton forever.

I believe one of the causes of Hilton retaining its tranquil nature for so long is its association with 'Capability' Brown and the fact it has one of the last remaining Turf Mazes. Highways England are attempting to destroy the nature of Hilton and overturn the planning common sense that has applied since the cutting of the maze in 1660. This is even more galling when there are alternatives available!

Again, I implore you to stop the permanent destruction of the nature of Hilton as has happened to so many other similar villages in recent decades.

Value for Money: I understand a key driver for this project is to promote growth in this area. I am not against change but this project has turned me into a so called NIMBY. This is because, at a time when the country still has a sizeable deficit, I believe Highways England have not considered more viable ways to achieve the same end. This isn't just about money, though. No price can be put upon the destruction of ancient countryside and old English villages. I believe the existing A14 should be retained and upgraded and the A428 duelling completed. In addition, I believe HGV's should be restricted to one lane in peak periods and a blanket 60 mph speed limit applied at all times to reduce pollution and enhance safety. This should cost a lot less and limit the damage to the local habitat.

Finally, I wish to put on record the fact that the way the information is rolled out is not what I would call fair, clear and not misleading. As a member of the public potentially affected by the development, I would liken the process to 'walking through treacle'. To date, any interaction I have had with Highways England has not been easy. How do you expect a member of the public to assimilate and understand the DCO submission? I left the exhibitions with the impression the bridges over the Potton Road and Hilton Road would be 8 meters at their highest point, it now turns out that they were always going to be 11 meters high. I got this impression from the material provided by Highways England and dialogue with Highways England at their exhibitions. I feel like I have been deliberately misled by them!

[Redacted signature]

15/6/2015

SARA PARTRIDGE
President of Hilton

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Notification of wish to Speak at the Hilton open floor

Please note my wish to speak at the above meeting to be held in Hilton.

I wish to ask three questions as follows;

1. I am not convinced that Highways England will police construction traffic and want to know what steps will be taken to ensure that traffic does not disturb Hilton village?
2. I have read John Rhodes speech entitled 'Beautiful Roads'. How will the Planning Inspectorate ensure that this recent change in Government policy will now be applied to the Developer's application?
3. How will the Planning Inspectorate ensure that alternative routes have been considered properly? This is more relevant since the upgrade to the A428 was proposed and the need to ensure value for money with the public purse.



Sara Partridge
Resident of Hilton