

**From:** Julian Thomas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 June 2015 13:24  
**To:** A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon  
**Subject:** A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon Upgrade

Dear Mr Coombes,

I understand that you plan to attend an open meeting with the residents of Hilton on Monday 13 July and that you require us to register with you any concerns we may have before 15 June 2015.

I initially thought that I write you a lengthy essay outlining my concerns regarding the impact of the proposed road on my village, but I believe this would probably only serve to eat into your limited time without adding much to the argument. Instead, I give you a truncated version in the hope that you will be able to see the passion behind these few words and take the very essence of this email to help you reach a judgement on the need to reduce the impact of the proposed A14-uplift on this village. There are a number of sequential "ifs" in my argument but it is the only way I know of portraying my concerns in order.

First, whilst I can support the need to improve the current A14 in order to meet the future needs of both local and national development, I strongly believe that it should not be at any cost to the environment. In particular, I have serious concerns that the route chosen is over-complicated and in the wrong place. The current proposal will blight a number of rural communities in this tranquil area of England for generations to come. Of major importance to me is that the proposed road will come far too close to my community and will seriously impact on the village of Hilton with high traffic noise, especially at night, with the constant sight of traffic speeding by and by the generation of high levels of chemical pollution from vehicle exhausts so close to our houses.

Let me start with the line of the road which is my fundamental concern and which in turn will impact on all my other issues. The current route brings the road unnecessarily close to a number of local communities and will also require the construction of a substantial viaduct over the river Ouse. A route to the North of Huntingdon would have been a little longer but would have been through virtually empty countryside with no major obstacles to surmount. I believe the wrong route has been chosen, especially as the original exercise was carried out some 15 years ago and things have changed eg The London Gateway is now in operation and this appears already to have made a significant impact on traffic patterns. I would propose therefore that the routing exercise be rerun to properly assess the better route in light of the current UK traffic needs. The move of the road line to the North of Huntingdon would resolve all of my concerns.

However, if the Highways Agency insists on pursuing the current foolhardy route skirting to the South of Huntingdon, why then, have they chosen to bend the route so close to Hilton and thereby exacerbating all of the problems described above? If the route had followed the current A14 for perhaps a further kilometre or so westwards before dipping South, then the extra clearance between Hilton and the road would have significantly reduced the triple blights of noise, sight and pollution on the village without detriment to any other community. I would ask that if the current route must

be maintained, then the line of the road be amended to take it further away from the village.

If none of the above is possible then we must insist that there is effective screening erected along the edge of the road so as to significantly reduce the impact of vehicle noise and to minimise the visual impact of the road on our rural community. On still mornings, the current A14 generates a considerable level of noise; the new A14 will be intolerably loud. Major roads on the European mainland have had thousands of kilometres of acoustic and visual screening erected to protect communities. In the light of such investment by so many continental countries to protect its citizens, claims by the Highways Agency that similar protection along the A14 will not work must be discounted.

If the line of the road cannot be moved then I would ask the Planning Inspectorate to insist that effective sound and visual screening be included in the basic design. The investment now of a relatively small sum of money will ease the lot of the villagers of this lovely village and avoid the blight which will be with us for many many years.

I am prepared to speak on the evening if you would consider it helpful.

J A Thomas



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