

From: Peter Balicki [<mailto:> [REDACTED]]
Sent: 19 August 2015 11:58
To: A14 Cambridge to Huntingdon
Subject: A14 Scheme

Dear Ms Fernandez

Hilton Parish Council

In accordance with the revised schedule in the Rule 8 letter the Parish Council would like to make the following comments regarding the second round of questions which will include comment on progress on the Statement of Common Ground:

Question 2.6.10.

Firstly we would like to mention that Hilton Parish Council and not Hilton Action on Traffic (HAT) commissioned the sound report.

We met with representatives of Highways Agency and Arup on 12 August and were told that they did not agree with the findings of that report. It was agreed that Arup would discuss the report with our expert and, at the time of submitting this response, are not aware if this discussion has taken place. We are aware however that Arup are likely to state that they do not agree with the report and its recommendation that by placing hard edged barriers close to the new road will reduce noise in Hilton. We are aware that previously noise mitigation was only considered for a narrow band of 300 metres from a road and that this has been revised to 600 metres.

One assumes this is because HE/Arup believe there could be an adverse effect from noise pollution over a wider area which concurs with a previous statement from HE/Jacobs that Hilton will be one of the biggest losers from this scheme. If we consider the legacy of this proposed scheme Hilton will go from a quiet village where the existing A14 can be heard from time to time to a village which will be blighted by a constant drone of traffic noise as the new six lane scheme is built 800 metres from the village and the existing four lane de-trunked highway will remain.

There will be less traffic on the old A14 but it will still be in use with traffic modelling suggesting that some of the traffic that may, in the past, have used local roads to avoid the congestion of the A14 will find its way to the old road because it will provide a more reliable through route.

We have been advised that Arup's figures do show noise levels will increase in Hilton, not just in terms of an average increase but more importantly the nature of the noise, but there is no practical method of mitigation and therefore we can expect no change to the current proposal. This position appears very negative and inappropriate in view of the impact this road will have on Hilton.

The matter of the sound report is also included in the Statement of Common Ground. As you will see from the comments below we will be able to comment further in the submission to be made by 2 September 2015 on the outcome of the discussions between Arup and our sound expert.

Question 2.14.4

We have met with representatives of Arup and Highways England but as the last draft was received on Saturday 15 August 2015 the Parish Council has not had sufficient time to digest what has been said and comment appropriately, we will formulate our reply and submit it by the 2nd September deadline for submissions of these statements.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Peter Balicki

Chairman

Hilton Parish Council