

Arborfield & Newland Parish Council

The Parish Office, Arborfield Village Hall, Eversley Road
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PINS RECEIVED

25 NOV 2015

23rd November 2015

Wendy Burden
Examining Authority
The Planning Inspectorate
3/18 Eagle Wing
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol
BS1 6PN

Dear Madam

Application by the Highways Agency (now Highways England) for an Order Granting Development Consent for the proposed M4 Junctions 3 to 12 Smart Motorway

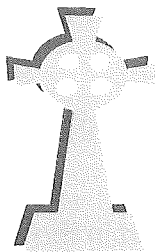
The Council has asked me to write to you regarding representations that we have made to Highways England in relation to the application for a Development Consent Order for the above scheme. I enclose a copy of our letter to them.

In summary, we are seeking assurances from Highways England that no additional noise barriers are proposed, beyond those incorporated into the published proposals. In addition, we are seeking assurances that, should the published proposals be varied by the inclusion of additional noise barriers with a potential impact on residents of this Parish, then either a new application process would be required, or the Council would be afforded an opportunity to appear at the Examination to make representations on the modified proposals.

Anticipating that this latter point will be referred to you by Highways England, the Council felt it would be courteous (and more effective) to address it to you directly.

Yours faithfully

Alison Ward
Parish Clerk



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15th December 2014

Smart Motorways Programme
Highways Agency
Mr Junctions 3 to 12 Smart Motorway
The Cube
199 Warfside Street
Birmingham
B1 1RN

Dear Sir/Madam

M4 Junctions 3 to 12 Smart Motorway Pre-application consultation

Arborfield and Newland Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to consultation on the M4 smart motorway proposals. The M4 is the key route through the surrounding area, and its operational performance has wide implications for the adjoining road network.

There are residents in this Parish who live a little over 200 metres from the current highway boundary, and our first concern is for their environment. We note that the initial findings of the Environmental Assessment currently being prepared, issued in the form of Preliminary Environmental Information, are that air quality and noise impacts will be negligible. However, we look forward to seeing the finer detail of the proposals and the associated full environmental assessment. One issue that has been troublesome in recent years is that of reflected noise, caused by the erection of poorly absorbing barriers to protect a community on one side of a road, only to cast a reflected noise envelope over properties on the opposite.

Our second concern relates to the impact on traffic flows on motorway feeder routes. Wokingham Borough has a highly mobile population with one of the highest levels of car ownership in the country. Throughout the Borough, roads are heavily congested at peak times, and traffic overflows onto less suitable routes, often through local communities. In Arborfield Cross, for example, we already have significant flows of traffic travelling through the village en

route to the M4 motorway at Junctions 10 and 11, and this will increase as 3500 new homes are built at Arborfield Garrison over the coming years. Our expectation is that, in addition to increasing the attractiveness of the M4 motorway as a strategic route, consideration is being given to the additional demands that this will place on the adjoining road networks and the communities that surround them, and complementary proposals to deal with this included in the scheme.

We note that the proposals will be exhibited at Winnersh Community Centre at the end of March 2015, and it would be helpful if a Highways Agency representative could lead us through the proposals as they affect the Parish in more detail, at that time.

Kind Regards

Alison Ward
Parish Clerk