

Representation No. 153

Cllr Gary Cowan

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Dated 26th November 2015

My initial comments remain but I would like to add some additional points which I would like the Inspector to consider. They are as follows. The M4 Motorway was constructed a very long time ago and it would not meet the modern criteria for motorway construction if applied today.

The environmental impact on residents is a key consideration and need to be considered along with my previous comments which state that the additional traffic generated noise and increased air pollution levels need to be addressed initially with a low noise surface, air quality monitoring and ideally a low emission zone so keeping vehicles that lead to increased pollution are not permitted on the motorway.

Noise can be affected by wind direction, funnel effect, rebounding and echo and for this reason barriers must extend along both sides of the motorway to minimise this as if not the noise depending on environmental conditions that would protect some residents will be doing so at the expense of others.

In addition bunds and tree planting along with noise barriers which are very common practices on continental motorways should be considered as well as noise barriers as they have the added advantage of muffling noise and significantly reducing pollution while providing some respite for local wildlife. Where at all possible a combination of all these along with a low noise surface must be the best environmental option available.

I note and support the comments from representations numbers 2, 47 and 56 which raise very similar concerns to me mainly centering on the most important need to protect existing residents from the environmental impacts the Smart Motorway will bring.

To that I would add those of the Mid West Berkshire Local Access Forum (representation number 209) which are very comprehensive and I would ask the inspector to take them into consideration.

For the record my previous comments were "The motorway must use low noise surfaces and have proper noise suppression barriers along both sides of the section in question. Increased traffic will increase noise levels to which all residents must be protected against. In addition air quality monitors must be in place to guard against rises in pollution as a direct result of increased traffic plus consideration given to establishing a low emission zone".

Councillor Gary Cowan. Wokingham Borough Council Member for Arborfield