

From: Clive Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 September 2015 12:33
To: M4 Junction 3-12 Smart Motorway
Subject: To Wendy Burden

This message is from Clive Jones, liberal Democrat Parliamentary spokesman for Wokingham.

I am concerned that the noise levels along the M4 from junction 10 to 11 have been increasing year on year for the last 35 years that I have lived in and around this area.

I and many residents would like the noise levels to return to those of the 1980's and 1990's when many of us bought our houses in Earley and Lower Earley. I understand from conversations with Highways England that data of noise levels and traffic flows from the 1980's and 1990's is not available. Probably because Berkshire County Council was disbanded in 1998. Had this data been available a comparison could have been made with today. I do not think it unreasonable to suggest that traffic levels on this stretch of the M4 have increased 4 or 5 times since the 1980's. Leading to a significant increase in decibels.

Noise from the M4 motorway is a blight on the houses in Earley and Lower Earley. It seems somewhat ridiculous that whilst extensive roadwork's are being undertaken on this stretch of the motorway that noise mitigation measures and improvements in air quality are not done at the same time.

I very much welcome the news that all 8 lanes will have "low noise tarmac". This news was given to me after discussions with HA employees at roadshows in October/November 2014. I hope that more can be done. There is the option to enhance the noise mitigation measures and I hope you will take this opportunity to do so if Highways England do not do this themselves.

Currently there are no acoustic fences along this part of the motorway. Highways England are planning 4 small sections of Acoustic fencing but this is inadequate in my opinion and in the opinion of many residents. The measures that I am thinking of would be a 3 metre acoustic fence for the length of the motorway on the Lower Earley side between junctions 11 and 10. additional 3 metre acoustic fencing should also be erected around the Black Boy roundabout at Shinfield and in Winnersh. I would estimate that these measures would cost a maximum of £2m. This is based on a cost of the acoustic fence costing £200 a metre and a similar cost for erecting it.

There are also areas of waste land along the side of Lower Earley Way where earth bunding could be erected. The added advantage of this is it will the astatic look of the area. Residents wont be able to see the M4 and hopefully will hear less of it.

At your meeting in Maidenhead I offered to show you and your team where these fences and earth bunding could go. I stand by this offer. I would ask you to think about spending more time listening to the noise around the M4 between junctions 11 and 10 than is currently planned on your sight visits in November. Currently you are planning to stop at Mill Lane and Shinfield Road.

I would like you to make several stops between these two points and suggest the following. In Lower Earley; Bythorn Close, Wickham Road, Stowmarket Close, Paddick Drive, Swebstone Close, Moorhen Drive, Fleetham Gardens, Meldreth Way, Chatteris Way, Gregory Close, Rainworth Close, Chatton Close, Maltby Way, Beauchief Close and in Shinfield, Chrysanthemum Drive, Fuchsia Grove, Ducketts Mead and Cirrus Drive. In Lower Earley there are 10,000 houses that are blighted by the motorway. This is a real opportunity to make a change for the better and to make a difference to the lives of over 30,000 people.

As well as reducing the noise levels. I hope that the noise mitigation measures that I have suggested will also improve the air quality along this part of the M4. Erecting the acoustic fences and earth bunding will hopefully improve air quality. The planting of trees and shrubs on the earth bunding should also lead to further improvements in air quality. I understand that trials are currently being undertaken along parts of the M62 and in other parts of the world to see if this is true.

I very much hope that you will find time to visit more parts of Lower Earley than is currently planned for you and that you will seriously consider the erection on acoustic fencing and earth bunding along the whole stretch of motorway from junctions 10-11.

Yours,

Clive Jones
Liberal Democrat Parliamentary spokesman for Wokingham.

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