

**Mike Heard**

**WRITTEN REPRESENTATION**

**HIGHWAYS ENGLAND'S RESPONSE**

1. *I wish to comment on the Enhanced Noise Mitigation Report. Although I am pleased to see that there will be a quiet surface and new barriers, I am concerned that the new barriers sited in Winnersh could bounce noise towards a property I own in Bearwood Road as the rear of the house is exposed to motorway noise across a field. Also, that without absorptive barriers the new barriers in Winnersh could direct additional noise towards the edge of Arborfield and Winnersh where there are a number of exposed properties.*

Highways England Comment

- 1.1 Highways England has made a commitment that new barriers between J10 and J11, including replacement barriers where there are existing barriers, will be of the absorptive type. This includes additional and replacement barriers in the Winnersh area. This commitment will be secured through requirement 22 of the dDCO.
2. *I have been unable at this point to ascertain from Arborfield Parish Council, which I understand has met with Highways England how long the Quiet Surfacing will last and whether it will be replaced when it deteriorates.*

Highways England Comment

- 2.1 All road surface types degrade over time, with consequent increases in tyre/road noise. However, research has indicated that new low noise surfaces (as will be used in the areas in question) provide on average between 4 and 6 dB(A) benefit over tested hot road asphalt ("HRA") surfaces. In spite of the better acoustic durability of the HRA surfaces, the research concluded that low noise surfaces still outperformed the HRA surfaces by 1 to 3 dB(A) after 10 years. The -3.5 dB correction for a low noise surface, as prescribed in DMRB, is a reasonable average over the life of the surface for calculation and assessment purposes.
- 2.2 Like any surfacing, the life expectancy of low noise surfacing is determined by the specific constituents, quality of construction, amount of traffic and environmental conditions. The pavement is regularly monitored following installation and will be maintained to a high standard.
- 2.3 The typical life expectancy of low noise surfacing is between 10 and 15 years, although in reality heavily trafficked pavements, such as lane 1 of the M4, are likely to be replaced every 7 to 10 years and the outer lanes, with less heavy traffic, every 10 to 15 years.