

Tim Holton

WRITTEN REPRESENTATION

HIGHWAYS ENGLAND'S RESPONSE

1. *Dear Richard, many thanks for the detailed response to my submission, most appreciated. As the ward member for Hawkedon I am very pleased with the plans to have 2.5 metre high and 2km long high performance absorptive barrier. I would though like to understand why the height is a full metre lower than the proposal for the barriers protecting Sindlesham, Winnersh and Embrook.*

Highways England Comment

- 1.1 The enhanced noise mitigation study was based on a robust quantitative assessment (the methodology for which was agreed with the Highways England's principal noise adviser). As described in the Enhanced Noise Mitigation Study Report (Ref 514451-MUH-00-ZZ-RP-EN-400158), this assessment is a three step process comprising i) calculation of the perceptible noise reductions achieved through enhanced mitigation, ii) a cost/benefit ratio (in terms of health benefits related to noise reductions against mitigation costs), and iii) professional judgment where the combination of i) and ii) does not provide an obvious conclusion.
 - 1.2 The Hawkedon area was included in the enhanced noise mitigation study (reference EM8), and was treated in exactly the same manner as all other areas in the study. The outcome was that 2126 metres of new 2.5 metre high barrier would be provided. In addition Highways England has also made a commitment that the barrier will be of an absorptive type.
 - 1.3 The areas of Sindlesham (EM10), Winnersh (EM9) and Embrook (EM11) all met the criteria for the initial provision of a 2.5m barrier, as at Hawkedon, and also for further increases of up to 0.5m (as they provided both a positive cost/benefit ratio and reduction in noise level of 1 decibel for each 0.5m increase).
2. *I also would like to request that the barrier is extended just a couple of hundred yards eastwards so that all of the estates namely Adwell Drive, Paddick Drive and Barn Croft will enjoy the same level of protection.*

Highways England Comment

- 2.1 The way a noise barrier works is quite complex, the noise reduction provided depending on a number of factors in addition to the height of the barrier. These include the distance from the barrier to the receptor and the noise contributions of other roads in the locality. The further away the receptor is from the noise barrier, the smaller is the noise reduction provided by the noise barrier.
- 2.2 The locations Mr Holton refers to (Adwell Drive, Paddick Drive, and Barn Croft) are over 300 metres from the M4 motorway and the location of the extended barrier that it has been agreed will be provided. Additionally, the B3270 (which makes a noise contribution at these locations) lies close to these locations; closer in fact than the M4 motorway. For this reason, expected noise reductions at these locations resulting from the noise barrier extension would be minimal and therefore no further noise barriers in these areas will be provided.