

Re: Application by Highways England for an Order Granting Development Consent for the M42 Junction 6 Improvement

The Scheme

Whilst the scheme may marginally relieve traffic from junction 6 of the M42 and the associated stretch of the A45 leading to the Airport, the new dual carriageway slicing through acres of greenbelt land will simply enable traffic to build faster at the bottleneck which already exists into the airport site. The local roads will be thrown into permanent disarray affecting resident's access to local facilities e.g. train station, airport and the NEC, forever. I therefore consider the scheme to be flawed; devastating greenbelt countryside, creating mayhem for local residents whilst achieving little to no benefit for passengers arriving by car to travel from Birmingham Airport. It should be rejected.

[REDACTED]

I have lived happily at the above address with my wife since April 2000. Together with our [REDACTED] we enjoy views out to greenbelt land to all four sides and visitors have referred enviously to the sense of sanctuary which emanates from our home. We agree.

An unwelcome stress has been introduced into our family life by Highways England (HE) writing to me and declaring that they have plans which affect my land and have a profound impact on our ability to enjoy our home. This declaration has forced me into a process which is complex to fathom and one which I am ill equipped to understand, without professional advice. The situation is further exacerbated by the volume of information (which can be inaccurate and out of date) provided by HE. I would like to raise with the Examining Authority the total lack of personal consultation we have endured thus far in the process and would request that consideration is given to our plight.

If the scheme is to go ahead we face the prospect of a new road (Shadowbrook Lane realignment) bearing down on us from the side and a noisy, smelly, disturbing dual carriageway within metres of our frontage. To get to this point, where many of the positive aspects of living at [REDACTED] will have been destroyed, we will have to effectively live in or opposite a quarry for four years.

Given the severity of the impact on our enjoyment of our home, I feel that HE has treated us shoddily, ignoring me, presumably in the hope that they can simply steam roller their DCO through. They have never requested to meet with me, they ignore my requests, they have never proactively sought to understand our situation to enable mitigation nor have they delivered on promises made at the one meeting that I did manage to have with them upon my repeated insistence.

I would be grateful if the Examining Authority could encourage HE to behave responsibly and fairly towards us. I would like them to take the time to fully understand our situation and present us with options. If the Scheme is to go ahead, HE should reconsider their position on acquiring [REDACTED].

The outlook during four years of construction of the dual carriageway and realignment is not good from a residential amenity perspective, also my property would be rendered unsaleable for that period, meaning that if we did need to consider moving to accommodate our growing family, this option would be denied us. From HE's perspective, if I am really worrying about nothing, as they would have me believe, they can simply create an option to buy my property at fair market value which, if exercised, would mean they have some cash tied up in the project until completion, at which point they could resell on the open market. This would cost them little to nothing in the scheme of things and yet would give us back some control and choices. I hope the Examining Authority agrees that this seems reasonable and is therefore able to support my request.

If a Compulsory Acquisition Hearing is the way to achieve this then I would like to pursue that option please and would certainly encourage an Accompanied Site Inspection at our home to help you to familiarise yourself with our situation.

For the avoidance of doubt, our absolute preference is that the Scheme does not go ahead and we are left in peace to continue to enjoy family life at [REDACTED].

Thank you.

Andy Bennett.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]