

**Planning Expectorate
Lower Thames Crossing**

19 September 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Higham Parish Council Written Reps

Deadline 4

1. **Enhanced Cross Sections – DL2**
2. **ISH 3 Project Design - AS145 – Clarification of slides**
3. **ISH 3 Action Point 7 Alternate Traffic Routes– Higham Parish Council**

Response

1. **Enhanced Cross Sections – DL2**

[TR010032-003231-National Highways - Other- 9.59 Enhanced Cross Sections \(Part 1 of 2\).pdf](#)
(planninginspectorate.gov.uk)

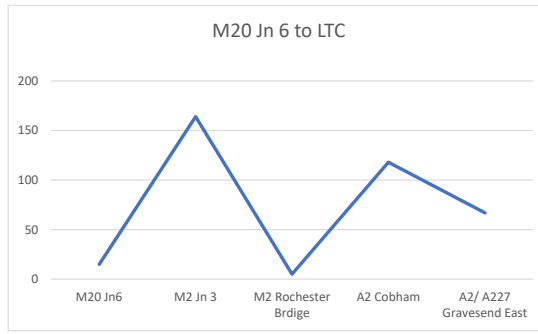
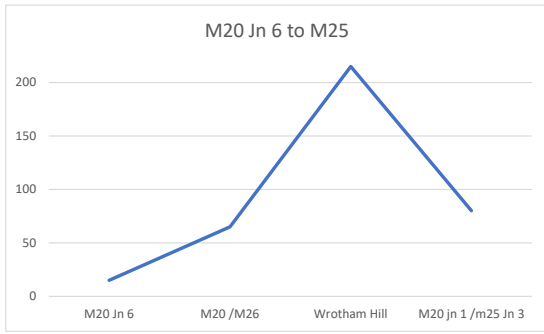
Page 6 Section A-A A2/A122 Cross-section

The LTC Southbound to A2 Westbound is significantly above the tree line and will be a large visual impact of Riverview Park and probably all along A226 to Higham. Can this be minimised/alterd?

Longitudinal Cross Section

What the enhanced cross sections provided at DL2 don't show is the longitudinal layout of the contours. As per graphs below showing height above sea level, two points to clarify;

- What is the impact on fuel economy, nitrogen deposition and CO2 emissions for the new M20/M2 to LTC route compared with current M20/M25/Dartford Crossing Route.
- What will be the impact of journey efficacy taking into account the positioning of junctions and signage from the top of M2 Jn1 to Cobham to LTC exits. The incline and direction of sun, particularly in winter, will be difficult manage for drivers. What will the impact be on incidents, fatalities? What will impact be on economy for misdirection of traffic.



2. ISH 3 Project Design - AS145 – Clarification of slides

A2 – A289 Slide 13/14

Whilst the slide is technically accurate what it does not show is that currently the A289 Eastbound would be accessed on the east side of the A2 Cobham hill (as shown in red below) and only have around 1 mile prior to the exit onto the A2 Strood at Crutches Lane or to the A226 at Higham.

This new slip road would need to be accessed some 4 miles further westbound making it a 8.4 mile long access road. Both Westbound in the morning and eastbound in the evening the A289 slip road will be subject to:

- General delays and incidents at LTC
- Current backed up traffic exiting at A227 Gravesend East
- Currently backed up traffic at Valley Drive
- 8.4 mile long slip road.

Slide 13 of 25

A2/A289 (Existing)

Route	Start point	End point
3 A2 (EB) – A289 (EB)	A	C
4 A289 (WB) – A2 (WB)	C	A

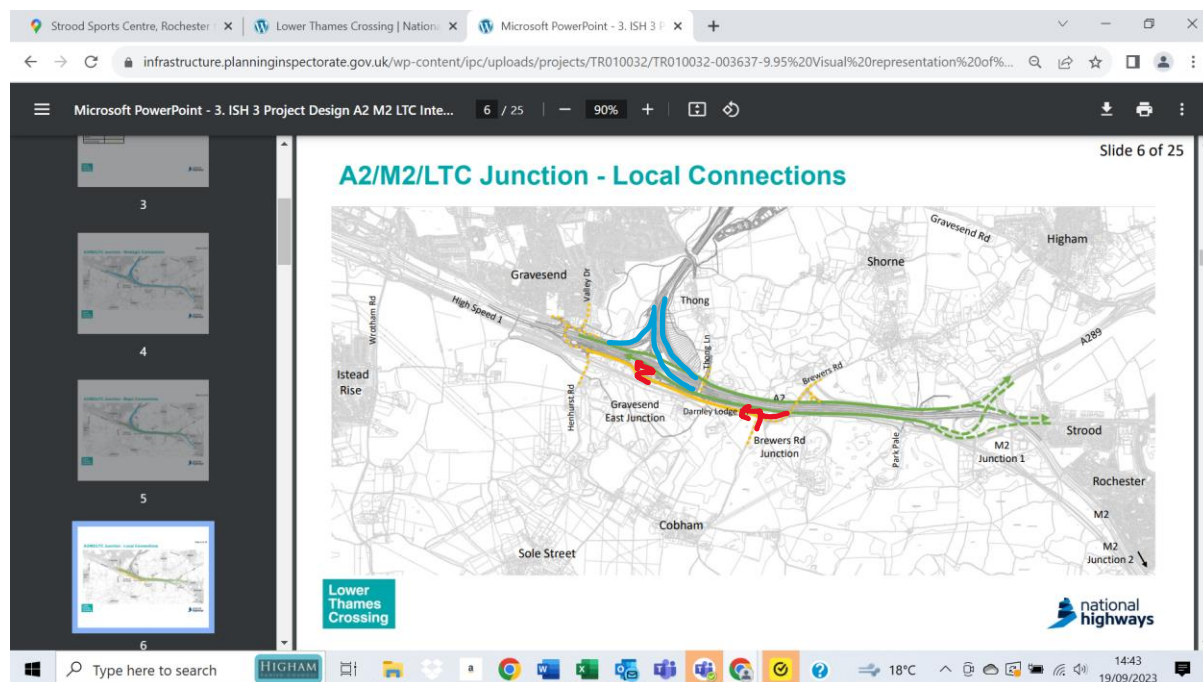
The map shows the A2 route from point A (Gravesend) to point C (Strood). Key locations include Gravesend, Higham, Strood, Rochester, Cobham, and Sole Street. The A289 route is shown in red and green, connecting to the A2 at various points.

Slide 6 Local Connections A2/M2/LTC

What this routing (as shown below) does not show clearly is that the A289 slip road will become inextricably linked to the LTC and any traffic impact that this has on the 300,000 population of Medway. (see lines in blue below).

It is not completely clear to HPC whether the connector road (gold) joins to the A289 Link Road (red lines) or whether they can only join the A2 at Valley Drive Roundabouts?

Additionally, does the Petrol Station remain and how access by A289 or M2 traffic Westbound? If not where is alternative provision provided for both commuters and freight traffic. What provision is made for rest areas for Freight Traffic



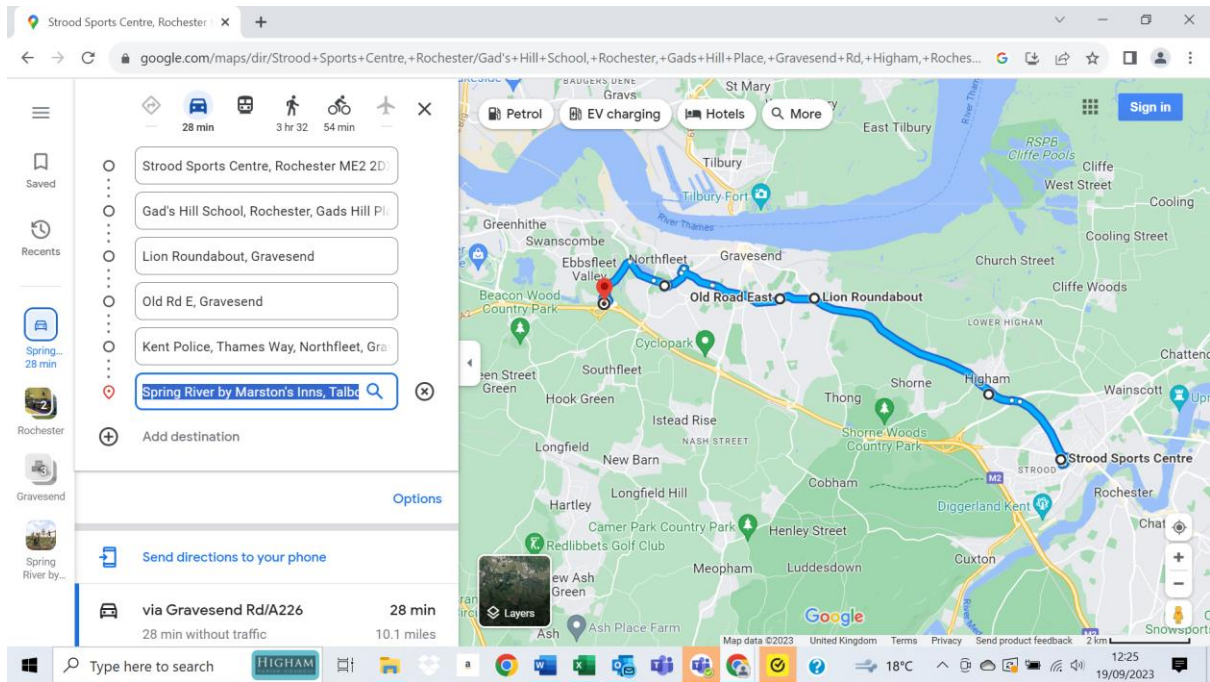
3. ISH 3 Action Point 7 Alternate Traffic Routes– Higham Parish Council

Question:

“A2/ M2/ LTC Intersection: local connections. Are there additional local routes which the applicant has not shown in [AS-145] but which Shorne and Higham residents frequently take? It would be helpful if annotated maps and/or descriptions with road numbers and names were used in the response.”

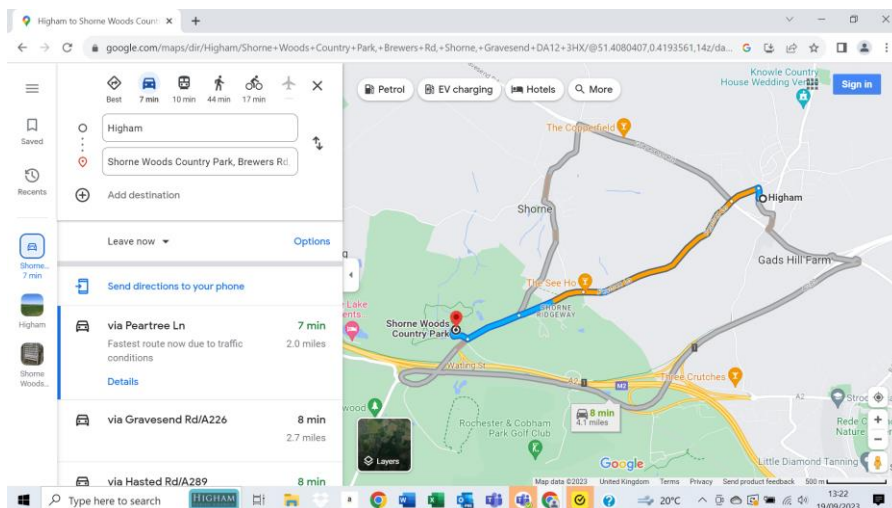
A2/A226 alternate route through to A2

In the event of the A2 Westbound (from Strood) or A289 Westbound (from Hoo Peninsula) backing up then traffic will divert along A226 through Gravesend Old Road East into Northfleet and either to Springhead Road or past Ebbsfleet as shown.



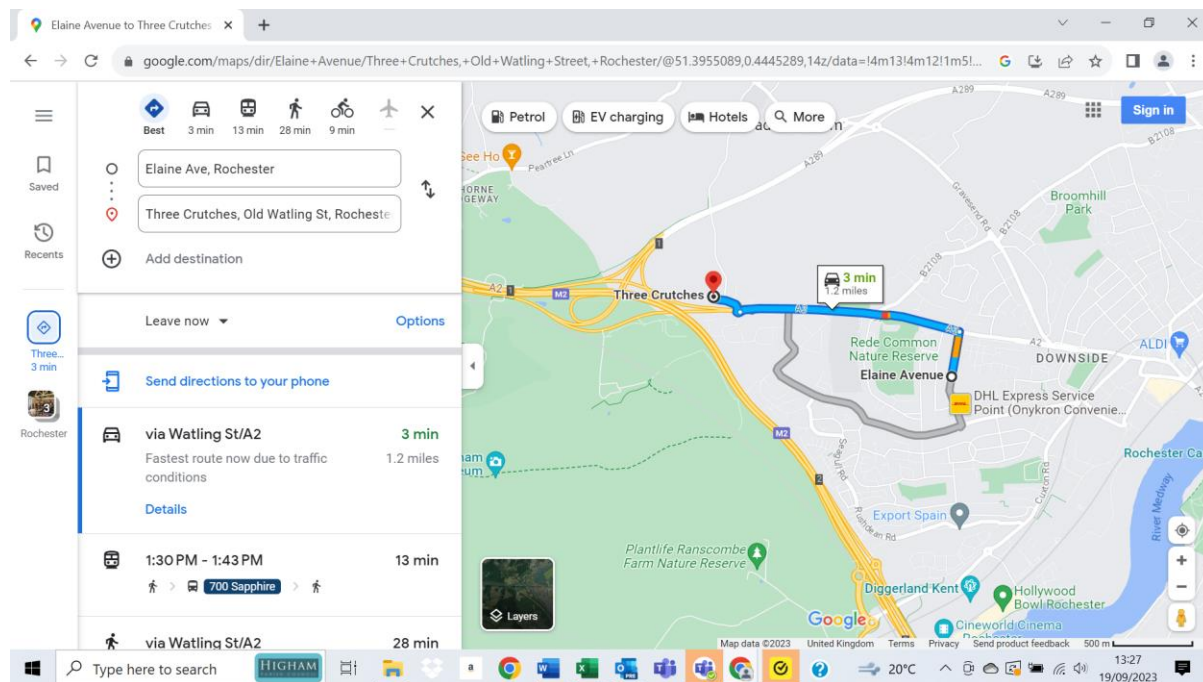
M2 Westbound to Shorne Country Park (or Higham to Shorne Country Park)

Whilst the map below shows Higham to Shorne Country Park this is more to demonstrate how Medway and M2 Westbound traffic will actually use to reach Shorne Country Park, particularly whilst Brewers Rd Bridge is closed for 19 months. Pear Tree Lane is not suitable for any volume of traffic due to narrow nature close to A226 and through Shorne village is currently a route that very little traffic will be using except for access. Is there any mechanism to keep Brewers Road Bridge open by building the new green bridge prior to removing current Brewers Road or providing alternate route via Park Pale/Golf Club Bridge?



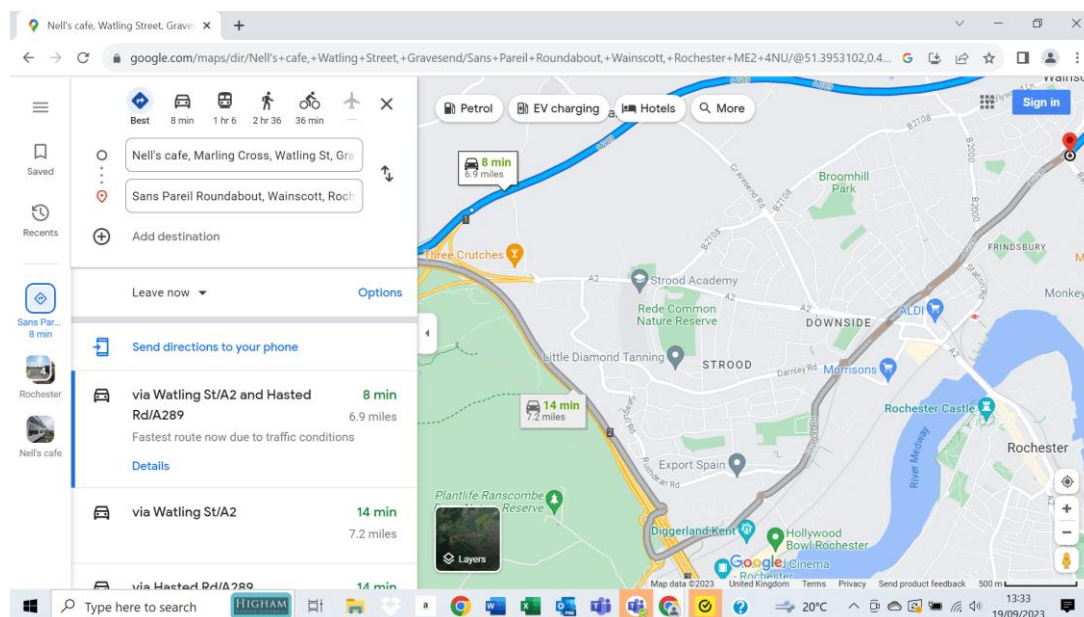
Stood to A2 westbound

If A2 is backed up Westbound, traffic will either use route shown below in grey, or if further back into Strood then Northcote Road onto Darnley Road

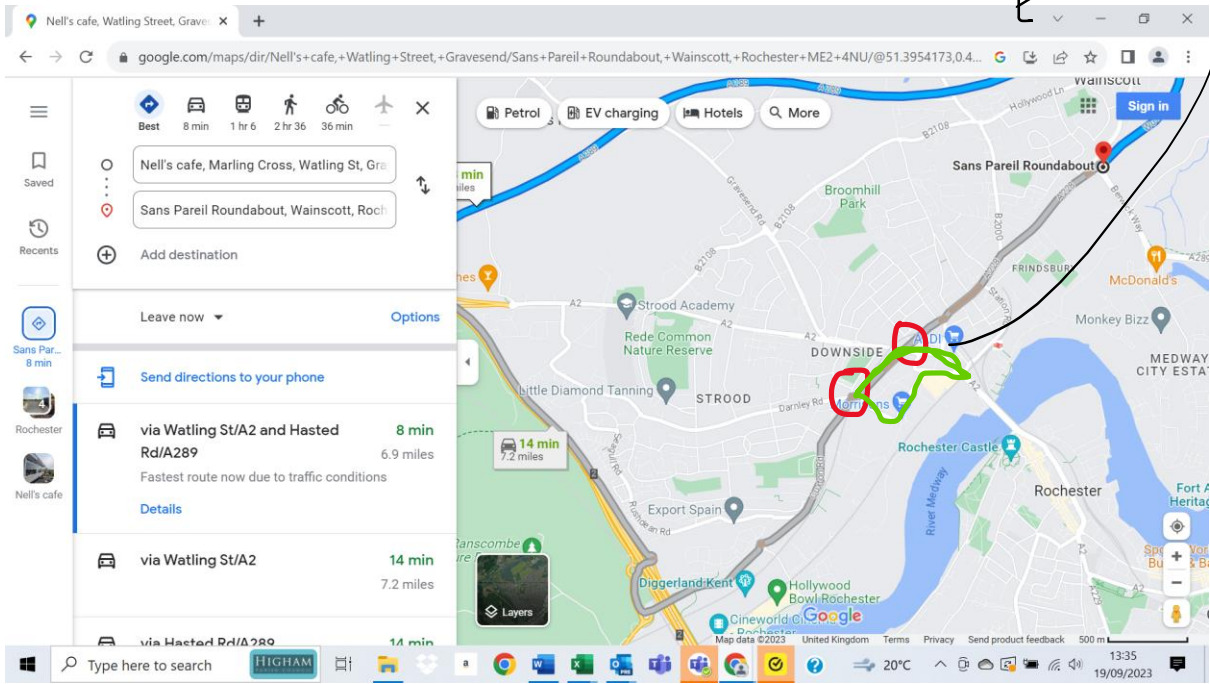


A2 to A289 Eastbound

Whilst the alternate route through Strood looks obvious on the map via M2 Jn 2 below; as can be seen, in the second version of the map with red pen marks, the areas at Darnley Road/Gun Lane/Northcote road is a very busy junction with only a mini roundabout. This will easily get congested and blocked back towards the M2 if additional traffic. Additionally, the Gun Lane/A2 junction will get blocked up. Either of these being blocked/congested will affect the complete traffic on the Strood one-way system.



Strood wne-way system in green pen



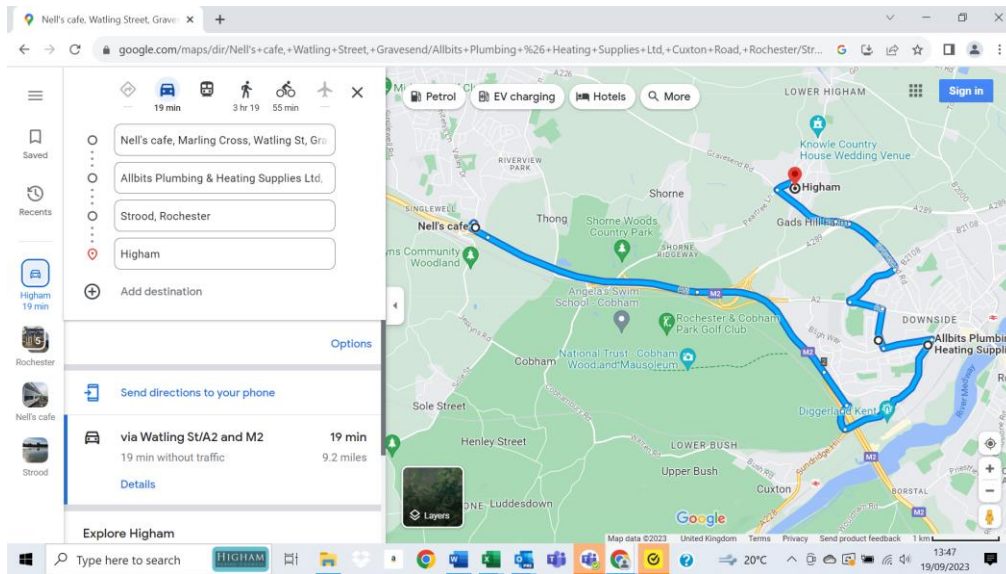
A2 to Higham

Currently almost no blockages in this direction.

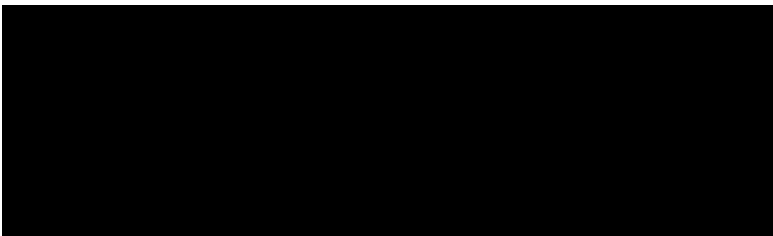
In the event:

- A289 is blocked
- Incident in LTC
- A289 junction is missed

This adds 9 miles – 19 mins to the journey. Ditto re Strood one way system impact mentioned above



Yours faithfully



**Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Higham Parish Council**