

I am appalled that National Highways acknowledge the fact that the LTC would redistribute congestion to the wider road network, but would have us believe that congestion and delay is an acceptable part of everyday life. Their statements that mitigation in this regard is not a requirement of the NPS has been contested by several of the Hearing attendees and I cannot think for one moment that National Highways are right in their assumptions.

The original purpose of the LTC was to relieve congestion at the Dartford Crossing. No indication was given at Consultations etc that it would push widespread congestion further afield to the local road networks. The situation is ludicrous for a Project with an estimated cost which has escalated to Â£9 Billion for a stretch of road 14.3 miles in length and which is predicted to take 6 years to complete.

National Highways should commit to using substantial rail and river transportation for freight and aggregates to reduce road traffic movements.

There are numerous proposed Compounds some of which will be in use for the duration of the construction and possibly beyond. Without doubt there will be high level of noise emanating from Plant and machinery, HGV's LGVs construction vehicles and general traffic movement. Dust pollution will be a problem in what I feel will be unacceptable levels. Vibrations from the works could impact on local properties. What measures have been put in place to ensure that construction works will not have an adverse effect on properties, including those of historic interest.

With the massive increase in housing projects it is even more important to protect our ancient and veteran woodlands, and established woodlands as well as our recreational parks and other outdoor recreational facilities. It is unacceptable that the LTC would destroy many areas of this type of environment.

Wildlife habitats should be protected rather than redistributed to another area to make way for the LTC.

This project has been like a noose around our necks for years now and has destroyed our local community because many have moved away due to the threat of the implications arising from the proposed construction of the LTC which will create more problems than it solves at an exorbitant cost, financially, environmentally and to general health and well-being.

Funds would be better spent on repairing and upgrading our current road networks. A high percentage of our roads are over 40 years old and in a deplorable condition in desperate need of attention. Investing in public transport and alternative freight transport to reduce the amount of traffic on roads makes far more sense.