

To:- transportinfrastructure@dft.gov.uk

Re:- Planning Act 2008 and the Infrastructure Planning (Examination Procedure) Rules 2010

**Application by National Highways (“the Applicant”) Seeking Development Consent for the Proposed Lower Thames Crossing Scheme
Request for comments from All Interested Parties on the Applicant’s Response**

With reference to your Email of 28 November 2024 inviting comments from Interested Parties, as a resident of Bexley, who is regularly severely impacted by the traffic congestion in the Dartford and Bexley area, I offer the following comments.

1. The comments by Gravesham Borough Council are baseless – the Gravesend / Tilbury Pedestrian only Ferry has been in decline for a great many years due to the lack of passenger traffic. Could their comments be a ploy to persuade National Highways to fund its’ re-instatement?
2. The access to the LTC to the east Gravesend is a matter of a couple of miles away from the Pedestrian ferry and is therefore eminently accessible.
3. The Dartford Crossing has a public bus service linking Bluewater and Lakeside and there will be Operators who will ‘jump’ at the opportunity of providing a similar bus service.
4. The argument around Carbon Emissions does not ‘hold water’ ! Currently, the traffic congestion on the A2 approaches to the Dartford Crossing, ‘Create’ more Carbon Emissions and pollution with vehicles who remain stationery or moving very slowly in first and second gears, meaning that the number of engine Revs, is greater than would be required when vehicles progress in sixth gears and greater. Keeping traffic moving at ‘reasonable’ speeds therefore results in a REDUCTION of emissions and pollution. On that basis, the ‘environmental argument’ lacks any truth or foundation in fact.
5. The process has yet again been stalled, with the new date being in May 2025. That means that The Whitecroft Care Home has the six months’ Notice to which they refer, to enable the smooth transition to new premises for all 60 of their Residents. Again, this is yet another attempt to thwart the construction of what is a crucial piece of infrastructure, where the accommodation of just 60 residents are being compared with the effects of the lack of transport infrastructure on a wider population numbering hundreds of thousands of people.
6. Recommendation – Proceed at pace, with the construction of the LTC.

Richard Jones