

A57 Link Roads project

**Written Representation to the Examining Authority by
Bamford with Thornhill Parish Council (Interested Party Reference: 20029107)**

1. Bamford with Thornhill Parish (in High Peak Borough) lies just off the A57.
2. The Parish Council recognises that the proposed A57 Link Roads scheme aims to improve conditions for residents in the Mottram area, and for those who need to visit or drive through that area.
3. Bamford is nearly 20 miles away from Mottram, but the effect of this scheme on traffic volumes will be felt throughout the A57's Snake Pass section between Glossop and Bamford (and beyond towards Sheffield).
4. The scheme is predicted to cause the A57 Snake Pass to experience a daily increase in traffic of 1,150 vehicles (by 2025) and 1,450 vehicles (by 2040). Although the applicant's Environmental Statement states this as a 38% increase over today, it also describes it as a 'slight increase' in traffic. We do not agree; it is clearly a significant increase - especially in the context that the Snake Pass lies in a National Park. National policy stresses the importance of road schemes and their effects being thoroughly assessed to avoid or minimise impacts on National Parks; we can see no evidence that such assessment has been attempted by the applicant, even though the potential for increased noise and pollution is surely obvious.
5. Some of the abovementioned 38% increase will presumably, on reaching Ladybower Reservoir, then use the A6013 to go through Bamford, a road which is narrow and curved in the village centre. Traffic volumes through the village already cause concern; a further increase in them will not be acceptable to us.
6. The A57 Snake Pass is a hilly and heavily curved route throughout, with numerous examples of poor sighting on bends. The route's inadequate layout already leads to fatal collisions, and, because of its topography, it is wholly unsuitable for an appreciable increase in traffic volumes. (Its A-road status perhaps gives an erroneous impression that it is a satisfactory trunk road; it most certainly is not. And, being in a National Park, it is well used by cyclists, who would be at risk from increased traffic levels.) We would urge the members of the Examining Authority, if not already familiar with the Snake Pass, to visit it, in order to fully appreciate its unsuitability.
7. In summary, we strongly contend that the applicant has largely ignored the adverse effects of the proposed scheme on the portion of the A57 east of Glossop, and that these are significant and need to be much more thoroughly studied and assessed.