

From: [Clempton, Alf \(Cllr\)](#)
To: [A585 Windy Harbour to Skippool](#)
Subject: Concerns about the Windy Harbour to Skippool Improvement Scheme
Date: 28 May 2019 14:11:31
Attachments: [Relief Road Feedback.pdf](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in my capacity as the County Councillor for Poulton-le-Fylde about the concerns I have about the Windy Harbour to Skippool improvement scheme. Please find letter attached to LCC Highways which points out many of my concerns and a letter below from a concerned resident who in my opinion brings up many valid points.

I have been fighting development in the Poulton area for over 6 years now, this has been difficult due, as you know to national policy. While I encourage improvements to the highway infrastructure, I must also point out the pressures the new road may put on Poulton. I have argued many, many times that Poulton just cannot cope with current levels of traffic due to unsustainable development being passed. Right now as I write this, I have been contacted by several residents who are stuck in traffic on Amounderness Way, Mains Lane and Breck Road in Poulton due to temporary traffic lights near the River Wyre public House. Indeed the que of traffic goes all the way to Windy Harbour and this is for one set of temp traffic lights, please do not misunderstand I know these things must happen but when one road like this is blocked in this area the impact is much greater than in other areas due to the location and lack of alternative routes. Many from outside this area have no idea how the traffic situation in and around Poulton has deteriorated in the last few years and, that often if one of the main routes is closed or blocked for some reason which is often the case due to increasing traffic volumes then the impact on the wider network is severe. Please remember Poulton has the only railway station in Wyre, severe parking issues, outstanding schools with pupils attending from far and wide, busy supermarkets in the town centre and is a bustling town used as a shortcut on the Fylde Coast.

Many believe that with the introduction of the new road will bring additional chaos and danger to Poulton. In my letter attached I talk about the Fairfield Road access to Poulton which many more people will use in order to avoid this relief road. I have recently raised concerns about serious accidents on this stretch of Road and this continues to concern me greatly. Another major point in the letter attached is that this road has been used in the past as a condition to pass major development and has been taken into consideration when important planning decisions have been made. In the case of the major development currently being built on Garstang Road East, the major concern was the lights at singleton and the promise of improvements but, now it seems that these lights will be replace with similar lights and in fact more sets of lights, this has the potential with additional development to worsen the situation, not improve it.

In general I am astounded that Highways England have had very little consultation with residents and when they say they have carried out the minimum, I have questioned this throughout the process and would comment that they have certainly been pushed to consult any less. I am also concerned that they just do not understand the issues in this area and have consistently not listened and while I know normally they just push forward with very little thought for the local community, the impact this could have on safety in Poulton concerns me greatly. Unfortunately

despite my efforts LCC Highways still also underestimate the severe traffic situation in and around Poulton although they do understand it better than HE.

While I cannot and will not stand in the way of improving the highway infrastructure, I have many questions and concerns about this scheme and the impact it could have on the town of Poulton-le-Fylde. Simply, not enough work has been carried out by any party to prove this scheme will have a positive effect on the local highway infrastructure and not enough work has been carried out to prove that this scheme will not have a negative effect on safety in Poulton.

Please take my concerns into consideration.

Best Regards,

Alf

A L Clempson
County Councillor
Poulton-le-Fylde
Armed Forces & Veterans Champion
[REDACTED]

Letter From Concerned Resident:

Subject: Windy Harbour to Skippool Improvement Scheme and effect on homes on Breck Road next to roundabout

Dear Alf,

I refer to our conversation the other day outside the Vicarage Park Community Centre when you asked me to put my concerns surrounding the above scheme in an email to you. I have lived at the end [REDACTED] by [REDACTED] since 1979. I do not oppose the scheme in principle because something needs to be done about the increasing traffic volumes. However, there is no doubt in my mind that the effect upon my property will be serious and significant. Highways England are seeking to purchase a small piece of my land and while some of these issues may be able to be addressed in compensation terms, it seems to me that the Scheme needs to incorporate specific measures to ameliorate and mitigate the worst effects from the widening of Breck Road, and the replacement of the roundabout with traffic lights, causing idling engines, interruption of the flow of traffic and a build up of stationary vehicles both on Amounderness Way and Breck Road.

I wish to make the following points:

Firstly, a good solid sound limiting fence or barrier (with vegetation and plants) needs to be erected along the Northern boundary of my property and also along the top of the embankment which rises from Horsebridge Dyke to Breck Road

Secondly, something needs to be done to improve the dangerous slope and embankment from Breck Rad to Horsebridge Dyke. The scheme envisages the replacement of a new culvert from the River Wyre into the dyke. Again I do not oppose this but the flow is tidal and can run very

fast. I question whether the present dyke (which forms at this point my Easterly boundary and is itself some forty years old) can cope with a new culvert from the River Wyre. In an ideal world the dyke at this point should be routed underground and it would, in my view, be an ideal opportunity for this to be undertaken while the improvement scheme is being effected. However, no one accepts responsibility for the steep slope (I cannot believe that it would not rest with LCC and/or the Environment Agency.)

Thirdly, there will still be a continual traffic flow along Breck Road, making it dangerous and difficult for pedestrians (especially the elderly) to cross between my house and the Civic Centre junction. The School crossing patrols for Breck School, and for St Johns assist when Schools emerge but there continues to be a need, in my view, for at least one controlled pedestrian crossing between my house and the Civic Centre.

Alf! I am aware how busy you are, but thank you for reading this email. If at any time you care to pop down, I can show you at first hand my concerns. You can always ring me, text me or email me to ensure I am in.

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LCC Highways

Alf Clempson
County Councillor for Poulton-le-Fylde
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Date 14th May 2019

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in my capacity as the County Councillor for Poulton-le-Fylde with regard to the Highways England proposal for the A585.

Background: Before the development was started on Garstang Road East and as part of the HE consultation I submitted an alternative plan for the relief road which was rejected by HE without taking it fully into consideration. Without going into great detail my alternative would have acted as a real by-pass for Poulton and would have relieved traffic through the town this proposal from HE will not. When I asked HE to consider the impact on Poulton and asked them to take the highway pressures of Poulton into consideration, they informed me that HE were only interested in the A585 and LCC were responsible for highways in Poulton. I believe this to be very short sighted and a missed opportunity to improve congestion through the town.

Impact on Poulton: At the present time Skippool roundabout forms an attractive local landmark and a well-known entrance to the town. This will be replaced by tarmac and lights and I am not convinced this will improve accessibility to the town because putting it simply while HE did the minimum consultation they did not carry out enough background work. I believe the HE have greatly under estimated traffic traveling through Poulton and not enough work has gone into assessing it. In truth despite my efforts even LCC continue to underestimate the worsening traffic situation in Poulton. As stated in the recent email from LCC Highways "Most of the route lies within Fylde West division but small parts of the route also lie within your division". This is another indication that LCC Highways just do not understand the pressures Poulton faces and yes while most of the new road is outside my division, the impact will be devastating and add to the already dangerous, congested highway system in the town. The fact is many commuters, delivery drivers etc use the Fairfield Road B5266 to access Poulton in order to avoid the congested roads in the town, this practice will continue. Measures must be taken to stop this but because this is not the responsibility of HE this has not been considered and no joint working with LCC has taken place.

Development: The Garstang Road East Development was passed with the condition that the lights at singleton would be improved but instead lights are now being installed at the Poulton Junction which has the potential to cause the same delays as the Singleton lights did. The whole basis of the development being passed now has to be questioned.

Conclusion: It has not been proved if this scheme will improve traffic flow at all and due to the lack of real consultation and the many unanswered questions that remain, I have to question the whole scheme. HE had the opportunity to make a real difference for the better to the traffic situation in Poulton and they fell short. I believe this scheme has been a desk top exercise which has not been fully thought through. There are many unanswered questions such as, the actual locations of the traffic lights, will there be a cycleway the whole length of the carriageway? How will the new offices and garage by Skippool be accessed and exited? Will access to the River Wyre pub be maintained and how? Basically residents in the area are afraid of the potential impact because there are too many unanswered questions and grey areas and this is due to HE's approach to this project. Myself and C/Cllr Shedwick have a meeting scheduled with HE in June and I hope to find out more then and I strongly suggest that LCC Highways carry out more work to assess the impact of this road on Poulton because very much like their approach seems to be with the proposed works to the Norcross Roundabout, HE are going to steam in, carry out the works without assessing the massive potential impact.

Please remember I have limited my comments to Poulton and the input the new road will have on the town, I am sure there are issues with other areas as well.

Yours sincerely,

Alf Clempson

Alf Clempson
County Councillor for Poulton-le-Fylde