

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A585 scheme and Open Floor Hearing outcome and issues
Date: 11 July 2019 16:43:39

I make reference to the Open Floor Hearing held at Thornton Little Theatre on Wednesday 3 July. I also draw your attention to a previous email, forwarded by myself on 9 April / see below.

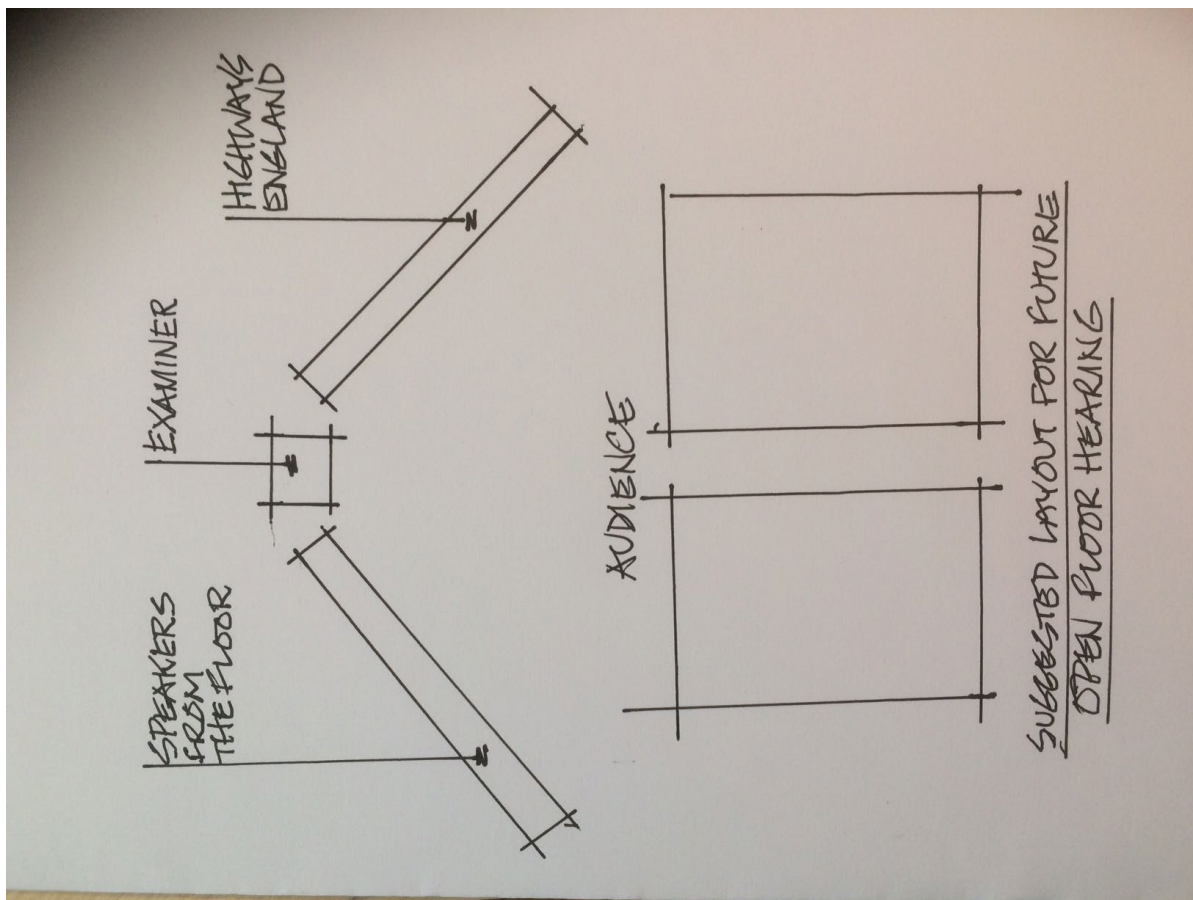
1. My concerns regarding flawed communication and uninvolved consultation were reinforced during the Accompanied Site Inspection and the Open Floor Hearing. During the former, it was clear that a number of land and property owners were unaware of the detail of the scheme, several had not received answers to concerns or not received any communication. This is a serious flaw for a scheme of this size, and one which will have such an impact on our living environment. I would ask that Highways England review this process. Please confirm that this will be done.

2. The Open Floor Hearing illustrated the concerns and frustrations of members of the public, but the manner in which the Open Floor Hearing was conducted was open to question. A number of attendees have expressed concern with regard to the layout in the auditorium; it was very difficult, and occasionally impossible, to hear clearly the responses from the applicant.

This was due to a combination of factors:

- i) The applicant's representatives were seated in a row at right angles to the audience. This made it difficult to see who was speaking. In the main, they did not project their speech.
- ii) Speakers from the floor were asked to speak whilst seated with their backs to the audience.

I would respectfully suggest that the future Hearing in September has the Examiner and speakers' locations arranged in a triangular fashion (rather like BBC1 Question Time). See diagram. (I am aware that an early speaker did request that applicant's representatives spoke more clearly, but this did not result in a significant improvement; members of the audience feel a little intimidated at the prospect of having to repeatedly request in such a way).



3. Following last week's Hearing a number of attendees have further questions which need to be asked and answered at a future Open Floor Hearing. An early confirmation of the date, time and venue for this could be advised as soon as possible.

In the meantime:

- i) We have been advised that 44 traffic signal "sticks" will be located at Skippool Junction. Please advise the number required at Skippool Bridge Junction and Poulton Junction.
- ii) With regard to replacement of removed ("impacted") trees, please advise the specific species / quantity / layout of planting / height / density / maturity / ability which will be required to visually screen and noise reduce traffic to the same level as current mature trees. This applies in particular to the two Skippool junctions.
- iii) It is reasonable to presume that traffic currently using the present A585 will instead utilise the new road. Therefore queuing traffic from Poulton at Singleton traffic lights on the current Garstang Road, in an easterly direction, will encounter exactly the same volume of crossing traffic generating exactly the same queuing problem, although this will now occur at the new traffic signal controlled Poulton Junction, and potentially extend back towards the new housing developments. Please explain how you will resolve this problem.

Many thanks

John Bailie

On 9 Apr 2019, at 20:11, John Bailie: [REDACTED] wrote:

For the attention of the Planning Inspectorate and Mr Gareth Symons, Chair of the Preliminary Meeting held today, Tuesday 9 April 2019, at Wyre Council Civic Centre.

Further to my previous email, I am writing to confirm the concerns that I made verbally at the meeting with regard to the compromised manner in which Highways England have conducted the consultation process and in particular in relation to today's Preliminary Meeting.

This is a monumental and clearly fundamentally flawed proposed scheme. It will create serious disruption whilst it is constructed; it will have a major impact on the environment and the overall character and perception of the area; it has a current mammoth budget of £150million.

Today's was a "Public Meeting". It was attended by approx only 50 people. The reason is that the meeting was not effectively publicised in advance. The level of genuine concern that is evident was reflected by the fact that not one of the speakers spoke in favour of the scheme as a whole. Several of those present who were opposed to the scheme were residents of Mains Lane, the very road that is supposed to benefit!

I wish to respectfully request that a second Public Meeting is held, and one which is effectively publicised in all media with a considerable period of advance notice.

Many thanks for your time and for the opportunity to speak today.

Kind regards

John Bailie