

From: [Mark Kenney](#)
To: [A47 NorthTuddenham to Easton](#)
Subject: Response to Open Floor Hearing 1, 12th August 2021
Date: 17 August 2021 17:38:58

Dear Mr Hunter and the Inspectorate Team,

I hope this is the appropriate method of providing formal feedback to you.

I would be grateful if you would record the following:

- 1. My response to statements made at the Open Floor Hearing.**
- 2. A site visit request for 15th November 2021.**

1. Response to Open Floor Statements.

A very poor broadband connection prevented me communicating at the meeting, though I have managed to hear all the various statements. I had not intended to speak myself, though I would now like to comment and briefly expand on various statements, thus:

a) The three enthusiastic statements by three Easton residents.

I am very pleased that the residents of Easton and Lower Easton will entirely get what they had hoped for from the proposed scheme. Unfortunately, there was not a word of concern expressed for the residents on Taverham Road, who will as a consequence of the scheme's side road diversions, experience the same horrendous rat-run dangers as described by Mr David Lewes (Lower Easton resident).

Mr Lewes did not indicate he had any knowledge that there actually are residents on Taverham Road - almost as many as at Lower Easton, in fact - and suggested it was an ideal replacement rat-run route. It is not. The diversion of through-traffic, away from Lower Easton, along Weston Road and down the southern half of Taverham Road will create equally dangerous and horrendous rat-running, as Taverham Road is (even more-so) a single width (beautiful) country lane, with blind corners and summits, listed buildings against the road and a narrow weak bridge.

I won't repeat the Taverham Road issues outlined in my original Statement. Suffice to say, it is very sad that no consideration for the Taverham Road residents was expressed by any of those speaking from Easton. Most of us here have lived on this lovely lane for upwards of 30 years - the present proposals offer nothing but future misery for us.

b) Richard Hawker's plea for a coherent Side Road Strategy.

Mr Hawker voices the constantly repeated request of many of the surrounding Parishes - bar Easton, of course. It was not accurate to state that Highway's England have 'listened' properly and there is little evidence that NCC Highways have any coherent ideas as to how they can address the 'knock-on' effects of the HE scheme on a host of side roads - Taverham Road in particular, due to its direct connection to the proposed new Norwich Road junction. We have had two online meetings with NCC during 2021 and, frankly, it looks increasingly as if they have no idea what to do.

c) Michael Fry's response for Highways England.

HE has made minor amendments to its scheme, but has been incredibly deaf to our frequently voiced concerns as to the consequences for Taverham Road (just read some of Mr Powis' standard and often irrelevant responses). HE appears to be so wedded to its initial 'concept' that it will not entertain the suggestion of serious flaws - to say the side roads are NCC's problem to resolve is simply unacceptable. We just do not get direct

answers to direct questions - the traffic predictions have varied wildly with no coherent mitigation strategy emerging. Worse still, what will happen here if the Western Link road is delayed or not even built? Each of those scenarios appear to be very realistic possibilities.

2. Site visit request for 15th November.

I would like to respectfully request that Mr Hunter should include a Site Inspection tour of Taverham Road south, Weston Road and Lower Easton in his schedule for the 15th November. Two residents of Taverham Road (myself and Mr David Hooker) would be very pleased to accompany him in some manner, should that be permissible. The distance is just over a couple of miles ... of very attractive country lanes. Our suggestion would be:

- a) Commence at the A47 / Taverham Road south junction.
- b) Over the narrow River Tud bridge, up past the road edge barns, to the hill brow.
- c) Inspect the proposed field access turn off for the Equinor site access proposal.
- d) Continue along the single lane roadway to the Merryhill junction.
- e) Turn East (right) down Weston Road. Witness junction of Weston and Ringland Roads.
- f) Turn right onto Ringland Road and back to the A47 at Easton along Church Lane.
- g) Consider repeating the route in reverse.

We believe this journey will demonstrate that Taverham Road is no more suited to carrying the present Lower Easton rat-run traffic than is the present route. It is also utterly unsuited to be used by Equinor as a cross-country route to their Easton site compound. (Please ask why Equinor are not negotiating a shared access with HE at Easton, rather than attempting to turn large vehicles off Taverham Road (lane) and then trundle them a few miles eastwards over fields to Easton?).

Please also bear in mind that Taverham Road is heavily used by large farm vehicles, cyclists and occasional walkers (who stop to watch the bird life). We believe the direct linking of Taverham Road to the A47 via the new Norwich Road junction (and the now submitted Food Hub connection) will utterly destroy this lovely lane and make life for its residents dangerous and intolerable.

Thank you for listening and for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Kenney
(Taverham Road, Honingham).