

Dear Mr Hunter and the Inspectorate Team,

After considering the comments and questions I raised in my first submission for this deadline (4), it seemed appropriate to make you more fully aware of the safety issues with traffic on Taverham Road.

Sadly, you have decided not to have an accompanied site visit along this lane and those connecting to it, so we (the residents) thought we should put before you photographs and a recent communication with NCC Highways (one of many), seeking some serious action to address the present situation - and the situation which will be so much worse should the HE scheme be built with the present proposed connection to a new Norwich Road junction. As a regular litter picker (and cyclist) on Taverham Road, I am always finding parts of cars to be retrieved resulting from impacts : this week there is in one place an entire front car skirting and further down the road some other plastic bodywork parts.

I end simply by reiterating one of the Questions I proposed to HE and NCC in my previous response to Item 7, Population and Human Health.

Does HE and NCC consider that the Ringland Hill lanes* will be sufficiently quiet and traffic free for safe family cycling and horse-riding once the new roadway scheme is operational? (*In particular, Telegraph Hill, Weston Road, Taverham Road, Honingham Lane, Ringland Road).

Yours sincerely,

Mark Kenney



Copy of email sent to NCC Highways 12 September 2021.

Dear Mr Alfrey,

I am writing again to follow up on my email to you on 24th August, as I am wondering:

- a), whether you received it (copy below minus HGV on bridge photo),*
- b), whether you have any responses to the four matters raised,*
- c), and to enquire whether NCC Highways has now developed any constructive ideas for addressing the rat-running issues north of the A47, specifically for Taverham Road?*

The Taverham Road residents are just returning to some semblance of peace on the lane following two awful weeks of heavy traffic whilst Lower Easton was closed at Church Lane between 30 Aug and 9th September. We have just experienced what Taverham Road will be like when the Easton roundabout is removed and the Western Link is either unfinished or (possibly) not built. The noise of constant traffic accelerating and screeching brakes was absolute misery. See attached pictures of the latest skid marks on the lane in the vicinity of our properties - there are many. We have told you before that the traffic situation down this road has reached a dangerous stage and these photos clearly demonstrate that.

(See photos).

It was suggested that you might monitor this traffic 'blip' so that you have a 'real world' experience of what is likely to happen but I don't believe that was done by NCC. I undertook some brief sample counts and noted as follows:

*a) Monday 6th Sept. 8-9am. 1 hour only.
223 vehicles. (incl vans and lorries. 2 tractors).
83 heading North, 140 heading South.*

*b) Tuesday 7th Sept. 9-10am. 1 hour only.
190 vehicles. (incl vans and lorries. 5 tractors).
69 heading North, 121 heading South*

*c) Thursday 9th Sept. 5-6pm. 1 hour only.
108 vehicles. (incl vans and lorries. 4 tractors).
61 heading North, 47 heading South.*

Whilst Church Lane remained closed at Lower Easton, the traffic was pretty much constant throughout the day on Taverham Road and, it seems pretty clear, the daily vehicle average is very likely to be at least in the 1000-1800 range if nothing is done - a horrendous prospect. We also find it difficult to reconcile these figures with your own current projections. So, we very urgently need to both see and discuss your side road strategy for this significant problem which will result from the current HE plans.

You may have read my Deadline 1 submission to the Planning Inspectorate Team, responding to the Open Floor Hearing statements, and also requesting a site visit by Mr Hunter on 15/11/21.

I have seen some outline NCC Highways thoughts for side road strategies for a few villages to the south of the A47, but nothing for the northern villages to date. We are, regrettably, gaining an impression that whilst you have been prepared to speak with us occasionally at a very general level, you had few well considered ideas to discuss in any detail with us. Hopefully you will very soon be in position to share your developed thoughts on the Taverham Road problem - are we near that time now?

We (and I speak here for the residents actively talking with you about Taverham Road) would very much like to properly engage with NCC Highways, to discuss options and try to agree together a proposal we can all accept, support and live with. It needs to work for us and for the residents of Lower Easton. It must be a solution which will not make our lives here on Taverham Road very difficult, very unsafe and pretty much intolerable.

I have suggested below three very outline thoughts which you might like to discuss with us, after looking again at the present HE road plans. I am not a highway designer, but these alternative strategies for relieving Taverham Road seem to be fairly obvious options for some discussion and examination ; so far, we have heard no conversation or assessment of the +/- aspects or indeed, any other ideas:

1. Connect Taverham Road back to Honingham village via a single lane width underpass westwards, just past St Andrew's church - one is proposed already for pedestrians, so why not a single lane road? Definitely single lane width and signposted as no through traffic and no HGVs - ideal for church and local access by local car and bike. This idea has much to commend it in our opinion and yet HE appears to have discounted a small road connection with no explanation. Why? Sketch 1 attached.

2. Replace the current Ringland Road connection from Taverham to the A47 through Lower Easton with a short length of new road, skirting just west of the Lower Easton properties. Connect to the A47 heading west / leaving east carriageways only - no Norwich bound slips - with simplified bridge over the A47 and smaller roundabout on the south side (west of Easton church) to connect both Easton and the Food Hub to the westward A47. This seems already to be on land acquired by HE for their compounds, so one assumes must avoid sensitive sites. Remove the Norwich Road junction and A47 connection entirely at Taverham Road. Sketch 2 attached.

3. Disconnect Taverham Road through-traffic to / from the A47 by physically cutting off the through-traffic at Weston Road, Honingham Lane and the Broadway, permitting connecting full through access only for cyclists and pedestrians. Residents of Taverham Road, Lower Easton, Merryhill and Broadway (and farm vehicles) can then have access to the A47 at the new Norwich Road roundabout, but all through-traffic is (physically) prevented from short-cutting through this area of the valley.

The residents on Taverham Road wish to engage with NCC Highways on finding a solution to our side road traffic issues, rat-run problems which the present Highway England scheme seems only to have made potentially a lot worse. We certainly don't feel that HE has properly listened to us through the process so far : they are not a local team and the present HE scheme is highly insensitive to the locality.

Do please respond to me / us so that we can work together to find a good outcome here. Thank you.



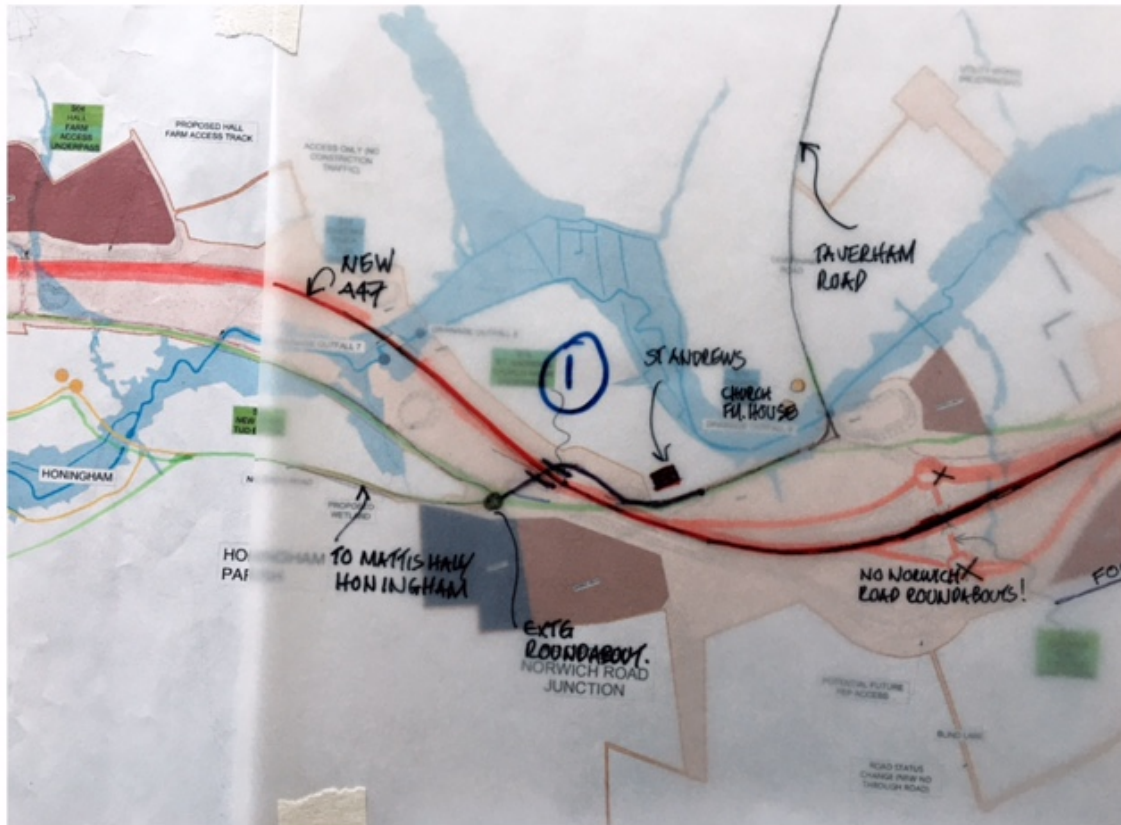






Option 2 Sketch. Sept 2021.
Ringland Road extended past Lower Easton.
September 2021

Photomyne



Option 1 sketch. Sept 2021.
Linking Taverham Road back to Honingham.
September 2021

Photomyne