



Wyboston, Chawston & Colesden
Parish Council

2nd November 2021

To the Planning Inspectorate

Re: A428 Blackcat IS4 Submission from Wyboston, Chawston & Colesden Parish Council

Wyboston, Chawston & Colesden Parish Council (WCCPC) generally supports the proposals for the long-overdue grade-separated interchange at the A1/A428 Black Cat junction, however, this infrastructure project will have a serious impact on the health and well-being of local residents. WCCPC wishes to make the following representations on these following points:

1: Noise (and air) Pollution

Bearing in mind that the prevailing wind is from a South-westerly direction - In discussions with Highways England (HE) we were initially advised that on the 'elevated sections' there would be 'solid barriers' to reduce the noise levels. At a subsequent meeting HE advised that they could not use 'Solid' barriers on safety grounds and that they were considering 'tree-planting' to mitigate the noise levels on elevated sections although they 'were still looking into it with their computer modelling' - we were then advised that tree-planting has been ruled out due to the adjacent area being a designated water run-off holding area and their (HE) computer modelling did not require any other measures as the 2-3metre high 'earth bunds' would be sufficient. As this is a critical issue for the Residents of this Parish can we insist that if HE cannot provide a satisfactory solution to mitigate this issue then they undertake to make sufficient provision to retrospectively address this issue if their computer modelling proves to be inaccurate

2: Light pollution

As the middle and upper layers of the graded interchange will be visible to many of the residents can we insist that HE use environmentally friendly downward-facing and shielded lighting to mitigate the light pollution effects on both human and wildlife populations.

3: Rat-running

This is a serious issue within the parish and will only increase once construction starts so WCCPC insists that the HE proposed link-road from The Lane, Wyboston to Roxton Road, Chawston be constructed prior to commencement of the main project or at least as soon as construction starts, to enable the necessary A1 closures of Chawston Lane, Nags Head Lane and The Lane Wyboston to be closed off with immediate effect, thus reducing the rat-running and improving the lives and safety of residents as apart from a small section of The Lane Wyboston, there are NO pedestrian footpaths/pavements within the Parish.

4: Lack of Pedestrian Paving

WCCPC is concerned with the lack of pedestrian paving along the HE proposed Link road from The Lane, Wyboston to Roxton Road, Chawston as regards public safety. This road, predominantly for HGVs and heavy plant vehicles but also will be used by residents from the proposed new Dove Farm development which will access directly to and from the link road and further will most certainly be used by patients and carers from Lakeside/Accomplish Mental Health Residential hospital in The Lane Wyboston. It is a sensible and practical route for residents to walk and cycle to the Garden Centre at Roxton, so with this in mind WCCPC also insists that HE provides safe and suitable pedestrian and cycleways throughout the entire length of this link road and that it joins the foot/cycle way which HE plans to stop at the northern end of the newly built A421-Roxton Road bridge.

5: Restricted Working Hours

WCCPC appreciates the need for certain construction traffic movement on local roads but insists that all construction vehicles operating within 500 metres of any residential property be restricted to working hours of 8.00am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 4pm on Saturday with no working on Sundays.

6: Water Levels

As the A1 through the BlackCat junction will be sculpted at a lower elevation than at present, WCCPC has serious concerns about water levels and flash flooding in this section blocking the carriageway. Water removal is critical and any pumping equipment failing due to mechanical and or electrical supply issues is a serious concern. If there is a build-up of water then traffic will migrate to the slip-roads and higher levels of the interchange thus increasing the Noise, Air and Light pollution across the Parish.

On behalf of Wyboston, Chawston & Colesden Parish Council

Mrs D Robins, CiLCA

Clerk/RFO