

I believe that there has been a complete lack of meaningful consultation with the local community of Cowley, the community most affected by this proposal and a definitive consultee.

It was apparent from the consultation material relating to the choice between option 12 and option 30 that option 30 was the preferred option of HE , even before the consultation had taken place. I do not believe the pros and cons of each option were presented in a fair and balanced way and it was apparent from subtleties in the language used that a preference had already been decided upon.

Can the ExA be appraised as to whether this stage of the consultation process was merely a "tick box" exercise.?

At the consultation meeting held in Birdlip Church on 9th October, 2019 it was clear that the applicant's representatives were unable to answer any of my questions as to the impact of the proposals on the village of Cowley. At this point the village of Cowley did not even appear on the relevant maps of the scheme and no one had visited the village to check on the suitability/condition of the local roads.

Can the ExA be appraised as to whether this constitutes a consultation of the quality that members of the local community are entitled to expect?

There has been a total lack of ongoing dialogue with the local community throughout the process. For example the proposed route was moved considerably closer to the village of Cowley without any consultation with residents of the village. There was no dialogue concerning the choice of link roads/ junctions. As far as I am aware there has been no dialogue with the community regarding specific mitigation measures during the construction process. These are just examples of the total lack of communication with the local community throughout the entire process.

Can the ExA be appraised as to whether the applicant has indeed consulted with the local community in a meaningful way?