

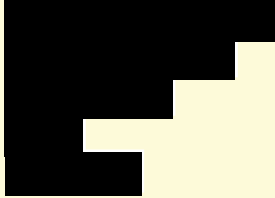


THE RT. HON. PRITI PATEL MP
WITHAM

HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Mr Mark East



Our Ref: ZA82586

3 May 2023

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your email regarding the A12 Widening Scheme, for attaching the SOCG between the Parish Council and National Highways, and for your comments on the air quality impacts of the proposed scheme.

While the scheme has been welcomed in principle across much of the area, I do recognise there are various issues that National Highways needs to address. Modelling traffic flows and pollution can be complex and involve multiple factors. For example, one advantage of the A12 being widened is that this should reduce congestion and delays, but it could encourage more traffic and vehicles using the road. Assumptions also need to be made about the advances in technology, such as increased electric vehicle use, which could also lead to some positive benefits to air quality.

However, it is important that data is made available and more clarity is provided about air quality impacts.

I will raise this matter with National Highways and with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. When I receive their replies I will forward them to you and we can take matters further from there.

Yours sincerely,

with our good wishes
[REDACTED]

Rt Hon Priti Patel
Member of Parliament for Witham