



31st March 2023

Dear Editor,

It is concerning to see the amount of time, maps, brochures and attention to detailed information that has gone in to the February 2023 consultation regarding the minor changes to the dualling of the A66. It is concerning because the same amount was not put in to the major change made in February 2022, despite it having a huge impact on a greater number of people and the impact on open countryside. That is the removal of the westbound access road from Appleby and creating a full movement junction at Powis, 2.6 MILES away. (NB I use miles as opposed to kilometres).

In February 2022 there was no consultation, just a flimsy brochure full of incorrect information. The reasons given by National Highways, not to have a junction at Appleby were 'not enough room', 'it's uphill', also there was a 'strong campaign' by twelve local councils to have a junction at Powis. I would like to make clear, Crackenthorpe Parish Meeting was unaware of any such 'campaign' and in fact strongly opposed the change.

The new road is long overdue and greatly welcomed, but local accessibility and safety was one of National Highways key points for improvement. Traffic from and through Appleby will still need to travel through Crackenthorpe, 2.6 miles, to access the A66 westbound.

Putting a full movement junction at Powis (Pop 4) in the middle of open countryside, seems ludicrous, as at Sandford, (Pop 40). There is no westbound access road between Sandford and Powis, approximately 7 Miles, and yet three new full movement junctions between Powis and Center Parcs, 6 miles. Within that 6 miles, Temple Sowerby by pass already has east west access on and off at each end, no such convenience for Appleby. Two of the new junctions are for the benefit of private companies, hopefully permanent but not guaranteed. It would appear Appleby, (Pop almost 4,000) the largest permanent settlement in the Eden Valley, former County town, is of no consequence.

Traffic to and from the industrial estate and local businesses, commuting workers and the emergency services, all face poor local

access. Not great for attracting new businesses or tourism.

The residents of Crackenthorpe were happy with National Highways plans for the de-trunked A66, to be made safe and suitable for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and farm traffic with a 30 mph speed limit. We can only hope, at least, this plan is adhered to.

Lesley Kelly