

The following are Additional Submissions, accepted at the discretion of the Examining Authority before the close of the examination on 29 May 2023.

1. Letter from Peter Gibson MP to Paul Morrison (CEO for the Planning Inspectorate), dated 28 April 2023
2. Response letter from Paul Morrison to Peter Gibson MP, dated 17 May 2023
3. Response letter from Peter Gibson MP to Paul Morrison, dated 26 May 2023
4. Response letter from Paul Morrison to Peter Gibson MP, dated 12 June 2023

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Case Reference: PE29623

Paul Morrison
CEO
The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3 O/P
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN

Friday 28 April 2023

Dear Paul,

I am contacting you on behalf of Billy Welch, Chairman of the Brough Hill Fair Community Association, who resides in my constituency and has raised his concerns regarding the proposals for the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine project.

I understand that improvements to the A66 have been proposed by National Highways which cut through the current site used to host Brough Hill Fair and that Mr Welch has raised concerns about these proposals and the detrimental impact it will have on the Gypsy community.

Brough Hill Fair has been in existence since the 1300's, dating as far back at 1330, and families and friends from the Gypsy community have convened at Brough Hill Fair on an annual basis since then. Although the Fair focuses on the sale and care of horses, the Fair has a greater meaning to the Gypsy community, believing that their ancestors join them at the Fair giving them a moment to reflect on lost loved ones.

Those that attend the Fair have built strong bonds with the communities in Brough and Warcop and work closely with local farmers in the area. Mr Welch has approached the local community and put forward a proposal for, what I understand locals are calling, 'The Billy Welch Straight Line', which has their support. This cuts through a piece of land which is designated as An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Mr Welch and his community are concerned that special dispensations can be made to build on AONBs in exceptional circumstances. There are already two instances of the road intruding on the AONB and the road itself travels through 12 miles of the area. The road in essence acts as an artificial boundary for the AONB. Mr Welch believes that this special dispensation has not been taken into consideration due to the community that this dispensation is being made for. Mr Welch believes that in the case of Brough Hill Fair, the time immemorial rule should apply due to the history and heritage of the Fair as an ancient cultural event.

Mr Welch has explained that the Fair organisers are willing to relocate the Fair to an alternative piece of land but that this land must meet the requirements needed to host the Fair in the same manner the community are accustomed to.

Member of Parliament for Darlington

Telephone: 020 7219 3077 Email: [REDACTED]@parliament.uk

Website: [REDACTED]



I understand that Fair organisers were initially told by National Highways that there were four potential sites but that they have only been shown two of these, neither of which were suitable to host the Fair. The first of which was far too small to hold a gathering of its nature but was also a floodplain.

The second site, the bivvi, was an adequate size but in an unsuitable location. The surrounding concrete works, farmland and 4-lane motorway pose huge concerns to the Gypsy community not just for the safety of their families who attend the Fair but also their horses.

Heavy Industrial machinery would pass in close proximity to the land, chemicals from the sheep dip would blow over the land, there are large slurry pits close by, dust from the works and cattle with their young. I cannot stress enough that this is a family event and subsequently a site safe for all ages should be considered as an alternative.

Brough Hill Fair currently takes place on land owned by the Ministry of Defence, which was bought in the 1940's and each year the Fair takes place the MoD has abided by the conditions and protections put in place to ensure the Fair can go ahead on that land. It is only right that under the designation of the Department for Transport that the same considerations are made.

I understand that your office are considering the Development Consent Order from National Highways which will go to Secretary of State for Transport with your recommendations and I wanted to bring this information to your attention to ensure you are aware of the ramifications this decision will have on the Gypsy community.

Mr Welch appreciates the importance of improvements being made to the A66 but does not feel that National Highways are recognising the importance of Brough Hill Fair to his community. Therefore I am writing to ask that an amicable agreement can be made on this matter and that Mr Welch and his community are taken seriously, with the Gypsy community's heritage and culture being respected as a foremost priority.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



PETER GIBSON MP



The Planning Inspectorate

3rd Floor
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Direct Line:
Customer
Services:
email:

0303 444 ****
0303 444 5000
Paul.Morrison@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Mr Peter Gibson
Member of Parliament for Darlington

Your Ref: PE29623

Sent by email to:

@parliament.uk

Our Ref: TR010062 – A66 Northern Trans-Pen
Project

Date: 17 May 2023

Dear Mr Gibson

Thank you for your letter dated 28 April 2023 in which you raise concerns regarding the Brough Hill Fair site on behalf of Billy Welch.

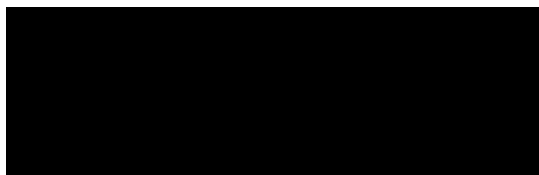
As you may be aware, the examination of the A66 Trans Pennine project is currently ongoing and is due to close on the 29 May 2023, and therefore all issues are still being considered by the Examining Authority (ExA). The matters concerning Mr Welch and the Gypsy and Traveller community he represents have been examined at some length.

The ExA held an Issue Specific hearing on the 1st of Dec 2022 with one of the main agenda items discussed being the Brough Hill Fair site. Indeed, Mr Welch gave evidence in person before the ExA. The ExA also issued written questions on the matter, received associated responses, and as part of the accompanied site inspection also visited both Brough Hill Fair and Bivvi sites, where Mr Welch was present and spoke.

Additionally, the Applicant has regularly updated Article 36 of the draft Development Consent Order which concerns the Secretary of State's powers to approve the relocated site before development commences, should the Secretary of State decide to make the Order.

The ExA has therefore a full understanding of the matters regarding Brough Hill Fair and will report accordingly to the Secretary of State for Transport in the Recommendation Report within three months of the close of the examination.

Yours sincerely



Paul Morrison

PETER GIBSON MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Case Reference: PE29623

Paul Morrison
CEO
The Planning Inspectorate
Room 3 O/P
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Temple Quay
Bristol BS1 6PN

Friday 26 May 2023

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 2023 and for confirming that the examination of the A66 Trans Pennine project is due to close on the 29 May 2023.

Ahead of the closure of the examination I wanted to further convey Mr Welch's concerns.

This morning I had the pleasure of accompanying Mr Welch to the proposed bivvy site put forward by National Highways and I also met with the local farmer, Steve Heron, who owns the adjoining land and businesses surrounding the proposed site.

I was shocked at the proximity of the proposed site to the A66 and indeed further shocked by the significant reduction of land that will be available on that site, after the new carriageway is built.

The entrance and exit, to and from the site, via the A66 is very constrained by visibility. In addition to this, the regular movement of heavy vehicles in the farm and in the concrete works, between the two, and to and from both sites on to the A66 are far busier than one would normally expect to see on an average farmyard.

Having seen the proximity of the sheep dip to the proposed bivvy site it is impossible to believe that the dipping of sheep would not have a detrimental impact on the users of the proposed site, the farmer has confirmed that the dip will be in use at the time of the Brough Hill Fair.

The grain store which is in daily use blows dust, in significant quantities, which I experienced first hand, and again this would have a detrimental impact on the users of the bivvy site.

Much discussion has been had about the use of campfires at gypsy fairs. Due to the proximity of the proposed site being used by gypsies at this fair, using campfires would inevitably lead to a much heightened risk of damage to the immediately adjacent hay store, especially with its Yorkshire boarded sides.

Having spent considerable time with Mr Welch to understand the needs of his community and having visited the site, seen his concerns and learned that it may have potentially been used as an ammunitions dump previously, I can only conclude that the intention of proposing this site is to permanently drive the community away from the area.

Member of Parliament for Darlington

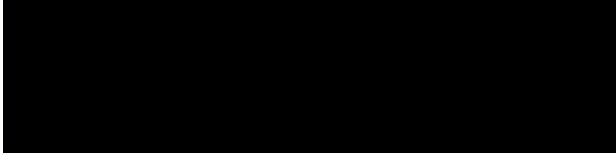
Telephone: 020 7219 3077 Email: [REDACTED]@parliament.uk

Website: [REDACTED]

I strongly urge efforts to be made to secure and identify a much more appropriate and much safer site for the Brough Hill Fair for the gypsy community.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



PETER GIBSON MP

CC: The Rt Hon Mark Harper MP, Secretary of State for Transport
The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Levelling Up,
Housing and Communities
Nick Harris, CEO, National Highways
Lee Hillyard, Project Director, National Highways



The Planning Inspectorate

3rd Floor
Temple Quay House
2 The Square
Bristol, BS1 6PN

Direct Line:
Customer
Services:
email:

0303 444 ****
0303 444 5000
Paul.Morrison@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

Mr Peter Gibson
Member of Parliament for Darlington

Your Ref: PE29623

Sent by email to:

 [@parliament.uk](mailto: @parliament.uk)

Our Ref: TR010062 – A66 Northern Trans-Pen
Project

Date: 12 June 2023

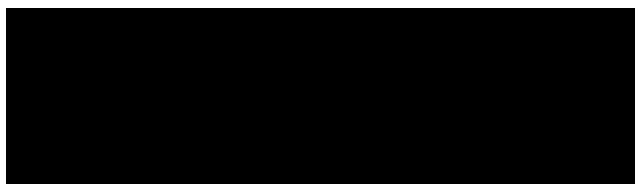
Dear Mr Gibson

Thank you for your letter dated 26 May 2023, contents of which have been brought to the attention of the Examining Authority and accepted into the Examination.

This and the previous letter dated 28 April 2023 will be published as part of the examination library on the A66 project website in due course.

Please note the examination is now closed.

Yours sincerely



Paul Morrison