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Sent: 10 January 2024 15:06
To: A66Dualling <A66Dualling@planninginspectorate.gov.uk>
Cc: Paula Carlington [REDACTED]
Subject: Consultation seeking comments/ scheme 7 & 8. Bowes and Cross Lanes to Rokeby

[REDACTED]

I am writing concerning the request by the Secretary of State for comments from all interested parties regarding the representations received.

These comments are particularly concerned with Dr Andrew Boswell's submissions and the subsequent response of National Highways regarding induced HGV traffic.

If the proposed A66 improvements do encourage increased HGV traffic then this will not only affect the A66 itself, but will undoubtedly have a corresponding effect on the towns and villages along the route. The response from National Highways to Dr Boswell's submission does not appear to address either issue sufficiently.

As a resident of Startforth in Barnard Castle we are particularly concerned with the effects of the Cross Lanes to Rokeby and the Bowes sections of the development and the possible increase in HGV traffic through the town. Of particular concern is the B6277 through Startforth.

This is a narrow winding road with a particularly narrow pavement in places along the section known as The Sills.

The pictures below were taken during the Autumn last year when traffic was diverted from the A66.

The video footage and first 3 pictures show lorries having to navigate one of the blind bends on the wrong side of the road along the The Sills.

The final photos again show HGVs having to cross onto the wrong side of the carriageway around a blind bend on Church Bank.

On the video footage you can see that the single pavement adjacent to the lamp post is less than a shoulder width wide. Should any other vehicle have been coming in the opposite direction at this point then this could have proved a serious risk to both the occupants of the vehicles and any pedestrian. The increase in traffic levels dramatically increase the chances of this happening.

Any increase in HGV traffic either caused by diversions during the works, the changes to the junctions at Bowes, Cross Lanes or Rokeby, or because of increased HGV traffic on the A66 in general could represent a serious risk to life along this section of road.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these issues along with the proposed works.

Kind regards,

Simon

Simon Heptinstall







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