

Infrastructure Planning Commission
Temple Keys House
Temple Keys
Bristol BS1 6PN

IPC

07 JUN 2011

REF: _____

Mr & Mrs Corbett

Address

5th June 2011

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Network Rail North Doncaster Chord Scheme Proposal

As residents of the Askern Spa Ward we wish to raise our concerns in respect of the proposal being put forward by Network Rail re the above. We believe the public consultation was flawed for the following reasons, and fails to adopt Localism and Big Society approaches to its outcomes with the local community being told what is best and what it will get:

- Residents living to the east of the Moss Road level crossing were not notified of all presentations taking place, and yet this element will be greatly affected as more freight is taken off the east coast main line and transferred to the Askern line. Other residents within Instoneville were notified of the final consultation presentation within Askern Library but Moss Road residents were not.
- Residents of Barnby Dun were consulted on both occasions but yet these are the least affected people, and this surely raises the question why.
- Residents of Owston were never consulted or notified and yet again this community will be greatly affected by increased traffic during and after construction, as the only exit to this village is via a junction which comes out at an extremely busy 5 lane end junction including the busy A19 road.

As residents we feel the making up of a green road that runs from Norton Common Lane Norton to Fenwick should be an integral part of this scheme to facilitate emergency vehicles and others to access the east of Askern without being held up at the Moss Road crossing. This crossing already creates a traffic hazard when the crossing is closed, as vehicles back up from the crossing gates through the traffic lights at the junction with the busy A19. Emergency vehicles also need to get to the east of the crossing as this area of Askern has many elderly and disabled people living on the east side. The Fire station is on the east side, but with the greater number of freight trains using the Askern line will again leave residents on the west side who require this emergency service extremely vulnerable. The proposals put forward re the junction with Rockley Lane, A19, Sutton Road, and Stocksbridge Lane should be permanently improved, and with local knowledge we are certain the estimated number of additional vehicles that this junction will have to cope with has been greatly underestimated.

The scheme in principle can still be built with local requirements absorbed into the overall scheme. The community recognise and accept it is a scheme of national strategic importance, and feel a win-win could be achieved for the residents of the ward and Network Rail if these two proposals are integrated into the scheme. The scheme we would ideally wish to see is no road bridge, the Joan Croft crossing closed, and the above road and junction improvements which will prevent greatly increased traffic on what is a single track road that comes out onto an extremely busy junction and greatly increased congestion within the centre of Askern.

Yours Faithfully

David & Suzanne Corbett