

To the Examiner Stuart Cowperthwaite

Friends of Markeaton Park notes that Highways England submitted responses to our submissions for deadlines fourteen and fifteen.

The examining Panel find themselves pioneering the methods of continuing their work during a pandemic that affects the worldwide trading and financial situation, and that has stopped international meetings about Climate Change. The government recently published updated tariffs resulting from Brexit. **The current limbo makes the calls for the A38 financial appraisal to be reassessed even more relevant than they were earlier this year.**

Highways England information	Friends of Markeaton Park questions
<p>FOMP How many lorry-loads each day, for how many days?</p> <p>It is estimated that approximately 840m<sup>3</sup> of soils will be translocated from the LWS to Markeaton Park. Such a volume of material would require approximately 84 haulage trips. It is anticipated that material haulage could be completed in less than two weeks.</p> <p>FOMP Will the receiving area be cleared and re-profiled before the translocation begins?</p> <p>An equivalent volume of topsoil will be removed from the Markeaton Park receptor site prior to the trans-location (comprising an area of amenity grassland with no trees). Following completion of the works, the site profile will be similar to existing levels.</p> <p>Highways England is not sure what point FOMP is making with the screenshots.</p>	<p>Where will the 840m<sup>3</sup> of soil removed from Markeaton Park be taken?</p> <p>Doesn't exchanging the A38 soil for Markeaton Park soil increase the Carbon footprint?</p> <p>Derby City Parks department had plans. Does soil change hinder those plans?</p> <p>If the Local Authorities, Natural England, Environment Agency and Environment Charities had the same legal and financial resources as Highways England would they oppose these manoeuvres?</p> <p>The first two screenshots for deadline 15 illustrated the difficulty of digging a utility corridor between the edge of the road and the retained vegetation. <i>Where will the diggers and lorries collecting the soil be? Where will the lorries carrying the specialist sewage, clean water, gas, communication, and electric apparatus wait? On the roots protection area of the retained vegetation?</i></p> <p>The third screenshot contrasted the reality of the operation with the claims Highways England make to justify it.</p> <p>The fourth screenshot shows the wide damage the 3 junction scheme does to biodiversity, losing hedges and trees. True relocation would place waterside soil adjacent to water and plants in correct orientation.</p>

The Chief Planning Officer of Derby City Council, who spends his working life studying plans, lamented that “it is extremely difficult to get information” as Highways England ignored outright questions about the number of trees to be lost and the ratio of replacement mitigation.

With the ongoing cuts in Whitehall direct support grants to local authorities leading to even more job cuts of (42 in Derby City and 750 in Derbyshire County Council this year) they will not have anyone to bid for separate funds for mitigation. It is difficult to see any way local authorities will be able to continue their obligatory requirements without access to additional tax-raising powers or selling assets. Friends of Markeaton Park is disturbed to find that Highways England wants to move more financial liabilities over to Derby City and Derbyshire County Council. The Local Authorities are forced to accede that “the Secretary of State has the power.”

Friends of Markeaton Park consider that Annie Clark-Maxwell should not be asked for her signature before the full impact the scheme will have on the amenity and access to the park for Derby people is known. She too knows that the Secretary of State has more power than she does.

Nevertheless the participants have all co-operated in good faith. The Inspector has shown the way in following up matters and asking relevant questions and the DCO is improved.

Friends of Markeaton Park ask the Inspector to consider our own further questions about the proposals and probable results of the scheme.

Friends of Markeaton Park find that computer modelling does not adequately reflect what actually happens in real life, and that the ability to adjust our actions to improve outcomes has led to better lives for our descendants.