

M54 to M6 Link Road

From: Councillor Robert Cope <r.cope@sstaffs.gov.uk>
Sent: 02 November 2020 22:28
To: M54 to M6 Link Road
Subject: M54/M6 Link Road Deadline One 3rd November Planning Inspectorate.

Categories: Deadline, EO

For the Attn of Louise Evans Case Manager M54 to M6 link road Case Team.

Interested Party Ref 20025371

Dear Sir's,

Please see my submission in writing for Deadline 1

Firstly I support the much needed M54/M6 Link Road and its objective to keep the right traffic on the right roads and improving safety for my local communities however I have many concerns which are listed below.

Socio-Economic Effects/ its effects on non- motorised users.
Identified Adverse Effects.

I feel there is a need for a direct Footpath/Cycle Path under the new link road workings to directly join up both sides of the existing A460 to enable residents in my ward to access the businesses at Hilton Cross and Mann and Hummel this is of paramount importance and seems to have been overlooked by Highways England.

At the moment any resident walking from the post office on the A460 at Featherstone can walk to the District Council's Strategic Employment Site "Hilton Cross" within 5 to 10 minutes, when the new link road is completed they will have to turn left in the opposite direction to pick up the new road connection, then cross to the double dumbbell island for onward journey to the Hilton Cross business park this will take considerable more journey time. Question – How long will this alternative journey take on foot compared to the present situation ? and is it reasonably acceptable ?

I run the Featherstone Job Club and have many single parents who do not have access to transport and are looking for part time work, there will shortly be 3 new large warehouse employment units offering jobs on Hilton Cross together with existing local jobs on the site, my wish is that local residents are able to access these jobs by being able to walk or cycle to Hilton Cross within an acceptable safe reasonable walking time bearing in mind there is no sustainable bus service after 5.30 pm and the walking route needs to be well lit as the warehouse jobs are likely to be 24/7, a 106 agreement is being considered to ensure local jobs are available to local residents and offered via the local Job Club.

Cycle Path.

Presently the West Midlands Combined Authority [WMCA] are planning active travel cycling routes across the West Midlands as part of a £260 million investment and rebrand of its 500 mile cycling vision this will be named the "STARLEY NETWORK" one of the routes on the indicative map ends at the Wolverhampton boundary on the A460 near Hilton Cross strategic employment site, I note that Wolverhampton Council in their submission have stated that Cycling Groups from Wolverhampton use the cycling routes to the north around Featherstone and Sharesill so it would make sense and good planning to continue the direct safe route in a straight northerly direction through the link road workings joining up both sides of the existing A460 in Featherstone. this would be a much safer option and amenity for all cyclists and as government policy is to reduce the usage and dependence of the motor car I would respectfully ask the inspector's to consider asking Highways England to add a further design change to their scheme

and provide a Footpath/Cycle link to connect both sides of the existing A460 under the M54/M6 link road workings presently Junction 1 of the M54.

Other concerns;

The Effect on Air Quality and Noise on the residents of Dark Lane Hilton who will be in close proximity to the link road.

Mitigation Actions;

Amenity and Visual impact on the residents of Dark Lane Hilton, the southerly view from dark lane needs tree planting to mitigate the visual impact of the M54/M6 link road and the connecting road to the double dumbbell island, earlier on in the process Highways England plans included a tree lined area, local residents are very disappointed that this visual amenity screen has been removed, I have asked Highways England for a photo montage to demonstrate the visual effect and would also ask the inspectors to consider an accompanied site visit.

Hilton residents would also like to see the rusting corrugated metal fence which surrounds the perimeter of the new link road removed and replaced with a more pleasing visual structure.

I would also like to request an added tree lined area to the west of the link road on the approach to the increased steepness change proposed by Highways England towards M6 Junction 11 in order to mitigate visual and noise impact on the village of Shareshill.

Can Highways England confirm their agreement regarding the removal of part of the mile wall on the A460 and relocated to the extended wall opposite the Avenue Featherstone on the A460.

Bio-Diversity Gain;

Agreement to be reached at a forthcoming workshop between County, District and the Parish Councils together with the Forest of Mercia Hilton Green and the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

The Effect on Historic Heritage;

Concern about the Portobello Tower located in Hilton's Historic Parkland this needs safeguarding for future generations.

TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC EFFECTS.

The Parish Council's and myself support a weight restriction on the A460 beyond the M6 Diesel Station in order to prevent heavy HGV's continuing along the A460 towards Featherstone, we do not wish to restrict the lawful business at the M6 Diesel and request that HGV's are directed back to M6 Junction 11 having refuelled at the business.

Cumulative Traffic Effects;

Have the cumulative traffic effects of the West Midlands Interchange and the McCarthy Glen Retail Park in Cannock been assessed in the link road scheme on the A460, A4061 and M6 Junction 11 from the horizon year to the final phase of these developments ?

Fly Parking;

I have concerns about Fly Parking at the extended end of the existing A460 in Featherstone which will become a dead end once the new link road is constructed, restrictions are needed to prevent HGV Parking and Fly-Tipping and in order to stop this area becoming remote and a potential antisocial area it is another reason that a well-lit safety by design Footpath/Cycle path is required.

Nurton Bridge Assurance.

Myself and the Parish Councils of Featherstone, Hilton and Shareshill do not agree that Nurton Developments [Hilton] should be given an assurance of no objections to a future bridge over the M54/M6 link road in order to protect their employment land interests, the need for this bridge and employment land can only be considered in a future strategic local plan strategy therefore any resolution at the stage would be premature and should not be endorsed at this enquiry.

Thank you for considering the above and as an interested party I look forward to participating in the hearings.

Cllr Bob Cope.

District Councillor and Chairman Shareshill Parish Council

Representing the interests of the Parish Councils of Featherstone, Hilton and Shareshill.

Could someone please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Robert Cope

Councillor

Members

South Staffordshire Council

Tel: 01922414420

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