

JONATHAN DJANOGLY MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE HUNTINGDON CONSTITUENCY



Mr Tim Hughes
A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Team
Highways Agency
Woodland
Manton Lane
Manton Industrial Estate
Bedford MK41 7LW

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Dear Mr Hughes

Re: A14 Ellington to Fen Ditton Draft Orders

It is now more than eight years since the original CHUMMS study and whilst the delays continue, the situation on the A14 has continued to deteriorate. I and many of my constituents are somewhat dismayed that the process of building the new A14 is not now well underway.

As with my last two submissions to the Highways Agency in response to the formal consultations, I have contacted all of 37 the Parishes and Towns in my constituency to ask for their comments on the Draft Orders. Of the 15 responses I received the majority were concerned that the appropriate environmental measures are installed at the earliest opportunity and before construction begins. Before I therefore list each of the responses I have received from Towns and Parishes, I would like to reiterate the point I have repeatedly made about the need to begin work on the new road at the earliest opportunity, which now represents the overwhelming position locally.

Alconbury Parish Council

Councillors are concerned about the removal of the viaduct in Huntingdon and the impact this could potentially have on traffic in and around Alconbury.

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Alconbury Weston Parish Council

Concern has been expressed that heavy traffic travelling north on the A1 will have to use Rusts Lane to access Alconbury Airfield, as de-trunking removes the slip road.

There appears to be bridleway positioned between the A1 and the new A14, that councillors believe is dangerous.

Brampton Parish Council

Brampton Parish councillors are concerned that noise and pollution mitigation measure are introduced at the earliest opportunity.

They also have concerns about traffic congestion if the viaduct is moved in Huntingdon, particularly in relation to residents accessing Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and Hinchingsbrooke School.

Local farmers have expressed concerns about moving agricultural vehicles when the new A14 is built and particularly if the viaduct is demolished.

Councillors would like to see more consideration given to a safe non-motorised crossing to allow access across the A1/A14 and they welcome the idea to include a further lane for the sole use of buses.

Buckden Parish Council

Buckden Parish Council have serious concerns about the published Draft Orders and believe the scheme to be flawed.

Councillors believe that the plans should include sufficient room for a Buckden bypass to be built sometime in the future. They have raised concerns that the intersections between the A14 and A1 are inadequate and also that the removal of the viaduct in Huntingdon will have a negative impact on traffic flows.

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Fenstanton Parish Council

Councillors feel that the sound reducing measures need to be improved to offer satisfactory protection to residents of Pear Tree Close and Pitfield Close. This could be achieved by extending the bunding and planting trees before construction begins to allow the trees to become more established.

Fenstanton Parish councillors also expressed concern that if the viaduct is not demolished, vehicles exiting the A1 will continue to use the local route and not the new A14.

Hilton Parish Council

Hilton Parish Councillors have concerns about the road project as a whole and they feel that further consideration should be given to finding alternative solutions to congestion on this route, including improving rail freight.

If the project does go ahead, councillors would like to see noise mitigation measures introduced at the earliest opportunity and further consideration given to noise mitigation outside of the 300 metre radius.

Councillors are also concerned that measures are introduced to minimise noise, pollution and disruption whilst construction is underway.

Hemingford Abbots Parish Council

Hemingford Abbots Parish Council are fully supportive of the scheme and would urge the Highways Agency to commence and complete the scheme without any further delay.

Hemingford Grey Parish Council

Hemingford Grey Parish Council are fully supportive of the scheme. However, they would like to see local link roads in Huntingdon implemented to reduce traffic congestion.

Councillors would also like to see steps from the new bridges at Hilton Road and Mere Way to the diverted footpaths. They would also like to see further consideration to environmental measures to provide protection for walkers and riders from pollution on the new road and also to noise barriers, quieter road surfaces and mitigation against flooding.

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Leighton Bromswold Parish Council

Leighton Bromswold Parish councillors believe that it is of paramount importance that access and weight restrictions are implemented to the north of the A14, such as those suggested between Bythorn and Brampton Hut, to protect the village from rat running.

St Ives Town Council

St Ives Town councillors would like a commitment from the Highways Agency to ensure that 2 lanes of traffic are open both ways on the existing A14 during construction of the new road and also the use of local aggregate companies to provide materials to minimise traffic flows.

Councillors would also like further consideration to be given to noise mitigation measures and also to traffic flows from the B1040 to the new A14.

I also received representations from Covington Parish Meeting, Little Paxton Parish Council and Yelling Parish Council who advised that as their parishioners are not directly affected they do not have a view on the Draft Orders.

As stated previously, it is vitally important that the road infrastructure in and surrounding my constituency is upgraded as a matter of urgency, as the number of delays and accidents caused by the sheer volume of traffic is constantly rising, causing misery to constituents and non constituents alike. This is likely to be exacerbated as the economy improves in future years and traffic volumes increase.

Yours sincerely