

**COMMENTS FROM MR. D. C. BILL CC, COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR HOLLYCROFT DIVISION  
(VIA EMAIL, 8/3/18)**

Can I please ask that the attached exchange about congestion problems on the A5 at Hinckley is reported to the Cabinet at its meeting tomorrow. It is illustrative of existing problems which grow worse by the day and which need to be taken into account in any plans to reconstruct the road.

In addition can I please ask for the following to be reported to the Cabinet - Although there is a reference in paras 10 and 11 of the report to bridge strikes and the consequent impact on local roads this is by no means the whole story.

In practice the A5 acts as a local distributor road as well as an important long distance route. Even when it is moving smoothly there are always traffic flows in and out of Hinckley, Burbage, Higham and Wykin. At peak times and increasingly at other times both HGV traffic and other vehicles cause congestion problems in Lutterworth Road, Rugby Road, Nutts Lane and Coventry Road. With an increasing amount of traffic on the A 47 which shares the same road as the A5 for a short period there are frequent tailbacks on all the approach roads to the Dodwells Roundabout.

There is a 200 year old bridge over the Ashby Canal in Nutts Lane and the constant flow of HGV traffic over the bridge is a real danger to mothers with prams and children who have no other way to get into town.

An alternative route to the A5 when it is congested is through Higham and Wykin and of course drivers of all vehicles make good use of this alternative route with all the consequent impact this has on the two villages.

I therefore suggest that there are two imperatives which need to be borne in mind if and when the road is finally dualled, or before if at all possible -

- the need to rebuild the road under the railway bridge so that lorry strikes no longer occur
- the need to drastically reduce the impact on local roads which lead on to the A5.

Regards

David

-----Original Message-----

From: Marriott, Ivan [ highwaysengland ]

Sent: 28 February 2018 21:44

To: [ Mr. Bill ]

Subject: RE: Massive housing estate set to get go ahead despite objections - Hinckley Times 11012156

Dear Councillor Bill,

Thank you for your e-mail of 6 February expressing your concerns regarding proposed developments in the Nuneaton and Hinckley area.

As you are aware, the main objective of the proposed Dodwells to Longshoot Improvement is to reduce congestion in the area, particularly along the A5 and A47 corridors. I can confirm that during the development of this scheme, developments that are considered to be near certain or more than likely to be built will be included in the scheme traffic assessment. This in turn will be used to determine the benefits gained from providing an additional lane in each direction between Dodwells roundabout and the Longshoot junction.

With regard to future development, Highways England is a delivery partner for growth and the National Planning Policy Framework states that we have to plan positively for growth. As part of that function we consider each planning application on its own merit in line with Government Guidance as set out in the Department for Transport Circular 02/2013 'The strategic road network and the delivery of sustainable development.'

We ensure that the traffic impact from proposals on the strategic road network can be suitably accommodated by appropriate mitigation works and advise the appropriate local planning authorities accordingly. However, we cannot lawfully require any proposal to mitigate the impacts and effects of another proposal.

Please be reassured that Highways England will continue to work closely with local authorities on the A5 corridor and we are a member of the A5 Partnership. Midlands Connect, a collaboration of local authorities, local enterprise partnerships and central government, including Highways England, are also working together to deliver a transport strategy for the Midlands.

One of the early priorities within this strategy is to undertake a study of the A5 corridor between the M1 Junction 18 and M42 Junction 10. This will inform Midlands Connect's ambitions for the development of the A5 corridor.

Kind regards

Ivan Marriott

-----Original Message-----

From: David Bill

Sent: 06 February 2018 09:37

To: Area 7 Enquiries [ Highways England ]

Subject: FW: Massive housing estate set to get go ahead despite objections - Hinckley Times

F.A.O.

Mr Ivan Marriott

Dear Mr Marriott

With reference to your email to me dated 16th November can I please draw your attention to the planning consent now granted for an additional 850 houses on the new estate in Nuneaton as outlined in the attached article from the Hinckley Times. Together with the exactly the same number exiting from the Bloors development on Normandy Way in Hinckley it is obvious that there is to be massive and unwelcome impact on the Dodwells roundabout whichever way the traffic impact is calculated.

Further down the A5 there is a planning application for another DPD development adjacent to the Hinckley Island Hotel and a little further a 750 acre freight depot served by a proposed A46 Expressway all of which is bound to have an impact on the local road network.

Leaving aside for a moment these future developments I have to report that our immediate problems are worsening with last week traffic at a standstill for over a mile on the M69 with the queue caused by congestion on the A5 and the bottleneck at Dodwells and motorists leaving Hinckley on Coventry Road having to wait through 8 cycles of traffic light changes to move forward.

Can you please give me any assurance that there are plans to alleviate our immediate problems and that there is a long term plan to address the future traffic demands which will result from the additional DPD development, the DB Symmetry proposal and the A46 Expressway ? This is not a hypothetical question as of course these three latest proposals are under active consideration at a local and national level and as elected members we will be asked to give our opinions.

I am assuming that the traffic impact of the proposals now under active consideration at Magna Park have already been taken into account as it is difficult to envisage how any more northbound HGV traffic can be accommodated on the A5 approach to Dodwells.

Yours sincerely,

David Bill  
County Councillor,  
Hinckley

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