

**CABINET – 7 FEBRUARY 2020****ITEM 10 – BARWELL SUSTAINABLE URBAN EXTENSION PLANNING  
APPLICATION****COMMENTS FROM MR. D. C. BILL MBE, CC**

When this matter was reported to the Cabinet on Tuesday 17th December I expressed my dismay about paras 29 and 30 which stated that the proposed improvements to the A47 approaches to the Dodwells roundabout would not now take place. My concerns have been justified as there is even more congestion along this stretch of the Hinckley Northern Perimeter Road as a result of the McDonalds works.

In the report which is to go to the Cabinet on the same subject on Friday 7th February para 19 states that “ County officers have explained why the Transport Assessment is out of date and why obligations in the draft Sec 106 agreement were no longer fit for purpose.”

Can I please ask for a copy of that explanation and in particular why County officers are of the view that the schemes previously identified as being needed on the A47 to mitigate the impact of this and other developments along the road are now considered no longer fit for purpose? It was realised back in 2013 that there had to be substantial improvements to the A47 in order to try to relieve existing and expected congestion. This has been borne out in subsequent years as congestion has indeed worsened not only on the A47 approach to the island but on all the other approaches as well.

Can I stress that it is absolutely vital for the County Council to have a plan in place to relieve traffic congestion on the roads it controls such as it is vital for Highways England to have some sort of strategy for reducing congestion on the A5 ?

The County Council and the Highways Agency should have intervened when given the opportunity to do so when the McDonalds application came before the Planning Inspector. Failure to act then has left everyone in an intolerable position. The time has come to put matters right.

David Bill

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