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Submission to LCC Cabinet

26th April 2022

Item 4: Major Road Network - Identification of the next priority corridor.

The A6North/A6004

Hathern Parish Council has become aware of the recommendations set out here, although it has not been formally consulted. As part of the corridor in question Hathern is the only village on this section not to have a by-pass and so all through traffic travels via the village itself. Currently Hathern is a bottleneck by nature of the volume of traffic using the road, especially at peak time, with tail backs regularly reaching the Epinal Way in one direction and onto the dual carriageway toward Kegworth in the other direction. This is exacerbated by the necessary pedestrian and junction traffic lights, the unnecessary change in speed limits on different sections of the road and the ever-increasing number of access points for new housing developments and business sites along this stretch.

The short sightedness in planning road infrastructure is also a contributing factor. The opportunity was there in the past to by-pass Hathern but the Local Authorities failed to act on that. The Highways Authority, who approve access to the A6 from new developments in Hathern (there have been 6 substantial developments in recent years), continually say that these will have no undue effect on traffic flow. One case in point is the new roundabout, currently being constructed to allow for the main entrance to the 3,500 house Garendon Estate development. This will put an additional and significant number of vehicles onto the A6 and, together with the disruptive nature of roundabouts anyway (compared to the situation previously here), substantially increase the problems associated with congestion on the section through the village.

It is extremely difficult to see what mitigation measures can be put in place to resolve the issues that are evident here without having a negative impact on residents. For example, altering the phasing on traffic light at junctions to favour (even further) through traffic will have an impact on residents trying to get onto the A6. A further concern is that any improvement to the flow of traffic down-stream in the corridor will create even more of a

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bottleneck in Hathern unless effective and resident sympathetic mitigation measures are applied through the village section as well.

Hathern Parish Council is seriously concerned that by designating the A6 North as a priority MRN corridor there is significant potential to actually create more traffic problems for Hathern to the detriment of users and residents alike.

Roy Dann, Chair Hathern Parish Council