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Submission to Cabinet

26th April 2022

From Max Hunt CC, Betty Newton CC

Item 4: The A6North/A6004 Option

Cabinet members will know that for the majority of the distance of this corridor it is a fast dual carriageway held up only at peak time at the A46, Loughborough and Hathern.

So the plan attempts to speed traffic through:

- the 40mph limited route through the town of Loughborough.
- The busy local shopping centre at Shelthorpe
- The passage of pedestrians and cyclists to and from the university campus.
- Nine large roundabouts and several more protected crossings
- The existing high volume of traffic through Hathern village itself

Even if it was possible 'speeding up' the traffic through Loughborough or Hathern in the peak hours would have a very negative impact on street scene, as well as the amenity and accessibility for people living in Loughborough and Hathern. The increase in traffic created by the plan would be to the detriment of air quality, road safety and noise in residential, commercial and educational environments.

If current practice is followed works are likely to be focused on widening junctions and carriageways but these offer considerable difficulties in this urban and constrained environment.

The report suggests that as a Major Road the route would carry traffic to and from the developments at M1 Junction 24. But the M1 already takes that traffic and its intersections have recently been hugely upgraded with massive investment. If the route has been chosen to relieve the motorway, then it should be openly admitted in the report.

New homes are referred to in the report, but there is no agreement of collateral funding from developers and those with the Garendon and north Birstall (Broadnook) site have already been concluded, or are nearing conclusion.

It must be remembered that the County Council has very recently paid for improvements to the Forest Road Roundabout and before that with the Town Centre Inner Relief Road which took traffic out of the town centre.

When the Garendon SUE was planned we asked for the Ashby Road/Epinal way roundabout to be improved to take traffic from the development. With all the tools and data at their disposal the County Council found this to be unnecessary, save for some minor works by the developer.

Hathern is threatened with more traffic and congestion by this scheme, as presented to Midlands Connect for their approval. We urge you to study Hathern Parish Council's submission in addition to ours before taking a hasty decision.

Thank you.