

HIGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk
Mrs. L. Carnall,
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Highways England,
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2nd April 2020.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I have been asked by the Members of Higham Parish Council to submit the following comments regarding the Lower Thames Crossing – Supplementary Consultation.

1. The changed designs look likely to affect traffic flows and volumes in our village and data supplied indicates that there could be increased traffic on the A226 traversing Higham and at the junction with the Wainscott By Pass.
2. These worrying increases in traffic levels leave us greatly concerned about the impact on the small/narrow country roads which are not going to cope with increases both from construction traffic and normal traffic levels once the LTC is open let alone when a problem arises either in the LTC area or at Dartford.
3. The traffic flow modelling is fundamentally flawed as it appears to fail to take into account existing width restrictions and signposting.
4. The inability of traffic at the Brewers Road junction on the A2 to join the A2/M2 eastbound unless it uses Pear Tree Lane and the A226, or the new local road to join the bypass and then effectively U turn at the A226 junction, means that there will be a lot of confusion and inappropriate traffic on local roads caused by drivers failing to turn off in time.
5. The A2/ M2 layout and connectivity cause significant concerns and seem overly complicated. There are needs to change the layouts to reduce the impact on the local roads.
6. Rat runs are bound to develop.

7. The impact of the construction traffic on the main routes (A2/M2) will cause delays and the inevitable knock on effect on the small local roads e.g. A226. What measures will be taken to mitigate this?
8. We are not convinced that the service road to the tunnel will remain as a service road. It seems likely that we will suffer the same fate as the area around the Dartford Tunnel.
9. We wish to express our great concern over the use of Smart Motorway systems on the route. We understood that the use of smart technologies replacing hard shoulders is under review at the current time.
10. We are very concerned regarding the impact of these lengthy works and long working hours which will mean that we will have to endure six years of dust, noise and disruption for twelve hours minimum Monday to Friday. The use of the A226 as a main construction route will have a huge impact on our village.
11. The small scale maps were difficult to follow and interpret especially for some of the complex junctions.

We would be grateful if you would keep us informed of any developments once this consultation has closed.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Linda M. Camall

Clerk to Higham Parish Council.