A14 Improvement Scheme

**Summary of comments made by parishioners at a Public Meeting held in Hilton Village Hall on Tuesday 23rd September 2014**

Following the three day exhibition in the Village Hall (21st to 23rd September) a public meeting was held. Over eighty people attended the meeting and the topics that were raised and discussed amongst parishioners are summarised below. This summary will be used to compile an agenda for a meeting that Hilton Parish Council will be having with Highways Agency in October .

* Parishioners would like to receive some feedback on their responses to the consultation process. For instance the general themes, the number of respondents from Hilton and which items the HA had acted on or would be acting on in the future design.
* The window to register as an interested party could be short (minimum of 1 week) therefore it is important for individuals to be able to react in a timely manner. Parishioners can register for updates by email; additionally Hilton PC will keep the village informed.
* Most effective use of time and energy maybe to accept current route and concentrate on mitigation measures
* A low noise surface has been indicated for the new road. However questions were raised on the longevity of such a surface (10years was suggested) and would a similar surface be used to replace it?
* An environmental noise census should be undertaken in conjunction with other villages north of Hilton.
* An environmental census should be undertaken to determine current air quality. Recent communications have increased our awareness of air quality.
* Rat running is a concern and our local MP has made enquiries on CCC for a 24 hr HGV ban on our behalf. Graveley Way is considered to be most at risk from increased “rat-running”
* The last survey by HAT (18+months ago) recorded a daily total of 570 lorries travelling through the village.
* EU regulations exist for new road builds, does the UK comply? Would a legal challenge be viable
* HAT are considering a new traffic consensus of traffic through the village. Call for volunteers with contact details to be collected after the meeting
* Would the removal of the B1040 / A14 junction lead to increased traffic through the village?
* The raised height of the road surface is a concern without technical support to clarify the need for this design feature. This will increase the visual and noise intrusion
* The borrow pits (and the contractor compound) could be a lasting negative aspect of the scheme. A condition of the consent should be that these features are to be used only for the road build and then returned to non-commercial / non-productive use after
* We need to embrace the possibility of working with the media, including press and radio. Some parishioners will be able to assist in this matter and offered their services. Items need to be simple with a single message
* The actions of the diggers currently engaged in the archaeological dig were questioned. If the route is currently unconfirmed are they little more than intimidation? Will their finds be of value?
* With media coverage in mind, would a public hand delivery of Hilton’s letters, “on mass” to HA, be of value ?
* Environmental studies are required to establish a current baseline in Hilton. Studies should include Noise, Light, Pollution and Vibration
* Why not make this scheme an exemplary project with adequate mitigation measures
* There are additional developments scheduled for this area (for instance Northstsowe). . Does the new scheme take account of future developments?
* Why is the route not further to the North? Additional distance, locally, between the road and the village would be beneficial without adversely affecting habitations north of the new scheme.
* Current route would appear to be skirting areas with unsuitable sub-soil such as old landfill sites and fenland soil.
* Challenging the consultation process via the Planning Inspectorate is considered to be a good action. The designers also need to show that the scheme is a good use of public money
* HAT will continue to monitor traffic and the police are aware that speeding is a problem in the village
* Recently there was a motoring accident at the Church End / Potton Road junction.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_