

Hilton A14 - Further Statement

The Non-Release of Vital Technical Information

In May 2015, Hilton Parish Council appointed Sound Barrier Solutions Ltd to undertake a noise mitigation study for the A14. This needed to be based upon data to be requested from Jacobs who were working on the road design on behalf of Highways England.

In our previous statement of 27th August 2015, we made very clear the fact that, despite constant and insistent requests from ourselves and Hilton Parish Council, Jacobs and subsequently Arup would not release vital and substantial technical information that was necessary for a comprehensive assessment to be carried out. In almost 20 years of working on major road schemes on behalf of national and international roads authorities we have never come across such behavior.

In requesting public consultation on a scheme of this significance, not releasing information in this way reduces the ability for public bodies such as Hilton Parish Council from having a coherent and strong voice into the consultation.

We believe this is an issue that should be taken into account. By then placing pressured time constraints for submissions to the Hearing, we would ask how it could possibly be viewed that Hilton Parish Council have had a fair or realistic opportunity to respond?

Noise Barrier Design & Specification

In our statement of 27th August 2015, we asked Arup to provide their approach to, and understanding of noise mitigation specification for highways. This has not been addressed by Arup which would suggest that they lack understanding or knowledge of both UK and European requirements.

This is especially important with the emergence of the CPR (EU Construction Products Regulation). It is now mandatory for all products to be CE Marked in line with the specifiers requirements. Under CPR it is now a requirement to ensure that Highways England is not subject to future legal action should non-compliant methods be employed or structures installed on highways.

Giles Parker – Experience with Highways Noise Mitigation Design

As managing director of Sound Barrier Solutions Ltd I have almost 20 years of experience in specialised noise barrier and noise mitigation design.

For more than 10 years I have chaired the BSI 5/509/6 committee for highways noise barrier design and until 2010 was also the chair of the CEN TC226/WG6 Acoustic group tasked with writing the specification standards for highways noise barriers for Europe which are currently required on all highways schemes.

I continue to lead the UK delegation to the CEN committee as BSI chair. Our ongoing responsibility is to co-author the specification standards for highways noise barriers for Europe. These form the basis of the CE-Marking for noise mitigation structures for highways and are now mandatory for all road schemes in the United Kingdom, including the A14.

In this capacity I also work with and advise Highways England on the application of these standards and work closely with Highways Area Agents nationally. We also train the industry on noise mitigation design. With respect to highways this has included Area Agents, highways engineers, local authorities, national consultants, contractors, barrier installers, supplier and specifiers.

Over the past 20 years we have undertaken many substantial highways noise mitigation design on behalf of Highways England, the National Roads Authority and the Welsh Assembly. Major schemes have included the asset assessment of the M6, M5 M42 Birmingham box corridor taking into account the performance assessment of 70 separate noise barrier systems on behalf of (then) Highways Agency. We also provided the detailed design and specification of highway noise barriers for more than 10 new motorway build schemes in Ireland.

We are currently also working on schemes in New South Wales, Australia and have assisted in New Zealand and Ireland advising on the formulation of their noise mitigation specification standards for highways.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Giles Parker', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Giles Parker
Director
Sound Barrier Solutions Ltd

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