

Our ref: A47/NT-E/SC/E/JP/001

James Powis Project Manager A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Improvements Scheme Highways England Woodlands Manton Lane Bedford MK41 7LW

09 April 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Dualling scheme – Statutory Consultation

I am now writing regarding the Statutory Consultation for the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Improvement Scheme.

All of our public information events were staged before the current lockdown period commenced. There has been substantial engagement with consultees and this continues.

If you have already submitted your feedback I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for having done so. If you have not, I would encourage you to have your say on our proposals. For group or collective responses, some councils are now utilising online platforms which can be used to support meetings to help facilitate group responses that you may wish to submit.

Unfortunately, due to the recent pandemic the public information points where the consultation documents are deposited are now closed. You can still visit the project webpage should you wish to view information on the project, including the consultation documents, at <u>https://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E</u>.

The deadline for responses to our consultation was set as 8 April 2020 at 23:59.

It has been decided that, with the consultation events concluded and our online presence, the recent closure of public information points should not mean that this statutory consultation process needs to be restarted once the current lockdown has ended.

However, to recognise that you may wish to respond to the statutory consultation, but are facing difficulties in doing so, we will continue to consider all feedback forms received for an additional length of time.

If you plan to submit a response to the statutory consultation please do so by 30 April 2020 23:59.





If you know you will want to make representations, but are unable to finalise your comments because you do not have access to the public information points, please tell us before 30 April 2020 that you plan to do so. Ideally please also provide me with a summary of your initial views. We can then consider if we can help you to obtain the additional documents and information you need. We will also know you intend to provide a fuller response once you have been able to complete your inspection of the consultation documents.

If you have difficulties in accessing the documentation online please contact me by phone on the number provided at the end of this letter, I can then discuss with you how it may be possible to make documents available to you.

You are welcome to continue to provide comments after 30 April 2020, but the opportunity for you to influence the design of the project will reduce as we get closer to finalising our documents for submission to the Planning Inspectorate. We will ask the public information points to keep our documents available for about 3 weeks after the locations have reopened, so you can see the documents should you wish. If when you ask for the documents, they are no longer available, please let me know and I can make alternative arrangements for you.

If you have been unable to review the documents before the public information points reopen and have further comments following your inspection of the documents, please submit them via email within that 3 weeks period to the address provided at the end of this letter. In the unlikely event that the deposit locations are unable to re-open before we finalise our proposals for the application, you will still be able to make a representation on the project if it is accepted for examination.

When our application is made to the Planning Inspectorate, if it is accepted for examination, we will be required to publicise locally that the application has been accepted. The notices that are published will explain how representations can be made to the Secretary of State on the submitted scheme.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, the A47 North Tuddenham to Easton Statutory Consultation or your ability to respond please don't hesitate to contact me on 07712236180 or 0300 470 7093 or by email to: A47NorthTuddenhamtoEastonRIS@highwaysengland.co.uk.

If you do wish to respond to the consultation please do so online at <u>https://www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A47NT-E</u> or in writing to Freepost A47 NORTH TUDDENHAM TO EASTON.

Yours Sincerely

James Powis, Project Manager

