

M42 junction 6

Improvement scheme

Statement of Community
Consultation (SoCC)



Introduction

1. Highways England is inviting your feedback on its planned scheme to build a new 1.5 mile (2.4 km) dual carriageway link road, between the A45 Clock Interchange and a new junction on the M42 motorway south of junction 6. The scheme is known as the M42 Junction 6 Improvement. The purpose of this Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC), prepared in accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, is to set out how we will consult on the scheme with stakeholders including the local community, residents, businesses, organisations and visitors to the areas (Appendix A). The document also provides background to the scheme and how the application to build it will progress, as well as details of where further information can be viewed and how comments on the proposals can be made.

The Application

2. Highways England is developing the scheme under the Planning Act 2008 and is publishing this statement under section 47 of that Act. It has consulted both with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), the local authority responsible for the area where the project will be built as well as neighbouring local authorities (Birmingham City Council, Coventry City Council, North Warwickshire Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council) affected by the wider impact of the scheme about plans to consult the local community.
3. The scheme is identified as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) under the Planning Act 2008. Consequently, this requires Highways England to make an application to the Secretary of State through the Planning Inspectorate for a Development Consent Order (DCO) to build and operate the scheme. The Secretary of State's role is to consider whether authorisation should be given for major infrastructure projects like this scheme. Highways England anticipates that a DCO application for the scheme will be published in August 2018. The Planning Inspectorate will examine the DCO application and the Secretary of State will decide on whether the scheme should go ahead.
4. This pre-application consultation will be an important time for you to provide feedback on this project. Comments made during this statutory consultation, will be recorded, and taken into account by Highways England when further developing the design of the preferred route and in the formulation of its DCO application.

More information about the Planning Inspectorate, the Planning Act 2008, and how you can get involved in the DCO process can be found on the Planning Inspectorate's national infrastructure planning website: <http://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk> or by calling them on **0303 444 5000**.

The Scheme

5. Junction 6 of the M42 connects the M42 to the A45 to the east of Birmingham near the National Exhibition Centre (NEC). It has almost reached capacity causing severe congestion and delays across the network. This congestion will increase as traffic levels grow due to the planned and aspirational developments in the area. In order to relieve the congestion, we plan to undertake a comprehensive upgrade of the junction, comprising of a new junction and new 1.5 mile (2.4 km) dual carriageway link road located south of the existing M42 junction 6 and linking with the Clock Interchange on the A45, as well as improvements to existing M42 junction 6 and Clock Interchange on the A45.
6. Junction 6 of the M42 lies at the heart of an area of dynamic growth and is surrounded by a unique mix of existing and proposed major assets that serve the local and wider economy. Existing assets include Birmingham Airport and International Railway Station, National Motorcycle Museum /National Conference Centre (NMM/NCC), Jaguar Land Rover and the NEC including Genting Arena and Resorts World. Major planned developments include High Speed 2 (HS2) and Birmingham Interchange HS2 Station. There are also a number of aspirational developments which may have an impact on the scheme including the UK Central mixed-use development and a proposed motorway service area (MSA) south of M42 junction 6. The proposed junction improvements aim to support local infrastructure needs as part of the future growth plans of the West Midlands.
7. It is anticipated that potential adverse impacts of the scheme may include temporary disturbance to traffic flow relating to the M42 junction 6 during construction. Negative impacts of the scheme will be mitigated wherever possible.
8. This scheme will improve the M42 junction 6 by adding a new 1.5 mile (2.4 km) dual carriageway link road between the A45 Clock Interchange and a new junction on the M42 motorway south of junction 6, and aims to:
 - Promote reliable and safe operation of the M42 corridor;
 - Increase capacity, to support and facilitate economic growth by providing adequate capacity on the network;

- Improve the connectivity, reliability and resilience of the network, as well as improve the transport economic efficiency of business users, commuting and other users, principally in the form of savings in journey time; and
 - Provide access to key assets and support economic growth, balancing the needs of individuals and businesses that rely on M42 junction 6, while supporting the development and implementation of the long-term Midlands Transport Strategy.
9. Because of its potential impacts, this scheme falls within the scope of the Infrastructure Planning Environmental Assessment Regulations 2017, meaning that an Environmental Statement (ES) will be submitted as part of the DCO application in accordance with Regulation 12. The Preliminary Information (PEI) Report will form part of the consultation material. The ES will set out an assessment of the scheme's environmental effects and indicates the mitigation measures that we expect to implement to minimise negative effects.
10. The PEI report, which includes information on environmental impacts related to the scheme, has been developed based on assessment work done to date. The PEI report and a non-technical summary (NTS) will be available at consultation events. A copy of the PEI report and the NTS are also available online or to view at the venues listed.

Consulting the Community

11. In accordance with section 47 of the Planning Act 2008, Highways England is required to consult with local communities living in the vicinity of the proposed scheme to effectively engage with all sectors of the community in question. To do this, we will send every property within the consultation boundary a letter and consultation flyer; this informs them about the consultation and the venues, dates and times of the local consultation events. The consultation boundary encompasses a 1.2 mile (2km) buffer around the preferred route and all properties in the villages of Catherine de Barnes and Hampton in Arden which are located outside the buffer zone. A plan showing this is included at page 11 below. In addition, Highways England has engaged with parish councils, residents' associations and community groups, such as Catherine de Barnes (Catney) Residents' Association and the Gaelic Athletic Association in meetings to discuss the scheme.

Formal Consultation

12. Highways England want to make sure that the local community, the residents, diverse groups, businesses, visitors and road users all have the opportunity to fully understand the proposed scheme and comment on our proposals. To do this we are holding a six week public consultation from 9 January 2018 to 19 February 2018 during which we will provide information on the preferred route, including design development since the preferred route announcement on 7 August 2017.
13. The preferred route includes the following elements:
- A new 1.5 mile (2.4 km) dual carriageway link road aligned to the west of Bickenhill, will link the Clock Interchange and a new junction on the M42 south of junction 6, to allow traffic travelling northbound to exit the M42 and traffic travelling southbound to join the M42.
 - Improvements to the Clock Interchange and the A45 between the Clock Interchange and the M42 will accommodate the additional flows of traffic.
 - Free flow links around the north-west and north-east of the M42 junction 6 will improve access to Birmingham Airport and the A45 west.
 - The new dual carriageway will be to the west of Bickenhill, to be built generally below ground level, passing beneath the B4438 (Catherine-de-Barnes Lane), near Bickenhill and towards the M42. The alignment would tie closely into the existing local road corridor to minimise effect on the Green Belt.
 - Improvements to the south-east side of the M42 junction 6, the A45 westbound (east of the M42 junction 6) and the M42 junction 6 southbound slip roads will be made to improve the performance around this quadrant of the junction.
 - A rebuilt bridge carrying Solihull Road over the M42.
 - A partially separated cyclepath / footpath running alongside Catherine de Barnes Lane.
 - A new footbridge connecting public rights of way over the A45.

14. Highways England will be using a range of methods during the consultation period to ensure that the local community has an opportunity to view and comment on the proposals. This will include:

Consultation Events

15. Consultation events will be held at a number of locations in the local and surrounding area of the scheme to give people an opportunity to view scheme proposals, talk to the project team and provide comments.

- **The Arden Hotel**
Coventry Road, Bickenhill, B92 0EH
Tuesday 9 January 2018, 1pm – 8pm
- **St Peters Church Hall**
Church Lane, Bickenhill, B92 0DT
Thursday 11 January 2018, 12pm – 8pm
- **Catherine de Barnes Village Hall**
40 Hampton Lane, Catherine de Barnes, B91 2TJ
Saturday 13 January 2018, 10am – 4pm
- **Marston Green Parish Hall**
38 Elmdon Road, Marston Green, B37 7BT
Wednesday 17 January 2018, 12pm – 8pm
- **Fentham Hall**
Marsh Lane, Hampton-in-Arden, B92 0AH
Friday 19 January 2018, 12am – 8pm
- **Warwickshire Gaelic Athletics Association**
The Clubhouse, Catherine de Barnes, B92 0DB
Saturday 27 January 2018, 10am – 4pm
- **The Core**
Touchwood, Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3RG
Wednesday 31 January 2018, 10am – 5.45pm

Unstaffed exhibitions

16. Unstaffed exhibition boards of the scheme will be displayed at locations within or near the scheme including:
- **The Core**
Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3RG from 31 January 2018
 - **Birmingham Airport**
Coventry Road, Birmingham, B26 3QJ
-

17. In terms of publicising the consultation and consultation events with local businesses, workers, visitors and long-distance travellers moving through the area, large posters detailing the dates, times and locations of all the consultation events, together with details of where to find more information will be displayed at key traffic generators and MSAs in the vicinity of M42 junction 6. Key traffic generators include Birmingham Airport, Birmingham International Train Station, the NMM/NCC and the NEC. MSAs include Hopwood (M42), Tamworth (M42), Corley (M6), Warwick northbound and southbound (M40) and Frankley northbound and southbound (M5). In addition, PDF versions of the poster will be emailed to key businesses in the area, including Birmingham Airport, NEC, Birmingham Business Park and Jaguar Land Rover, requesting onward dissemination to staff.

Scheme website

18. A full summary of the scheme, copies of the consultation material and PEI report, as well as the questionnaire will be provided on a dedicated scheme website: www.highways.gov.uk/m42-j6

Consultation brochure

19. A consultation brochure providing information about the proposed scheme and the issues being consulted on will be available to view on the scheme website, at consultation events and deposit points and on request from Highways England.

Council and community groups

20. We want to make sure that the local community, the residents, local interest groups, businesses, visitors and road users, have the opportunity to fully understand the scheme and comment on our proposals. Local council and community groups within the proposed scheme area will be offered briefings to discuss the scheme proposals. We have already met regularly with Bickenhill and Marston Green Parish Council, Hampton in Arden Parish Council and Catherine de Barnes Residents Association. We have also met with the Warwickshire Gaelic Athletics Association who will be hosting one of the consultation events. A list of consultees is included in a table at pages 10 and 11 below.

Media

21. The public consultation will be advertised at the beginning of the consultation period in the Solihull News and the Birmingham Mail, two locally circulating newspapers. In addition, adverts will be placed in local newspapers at the launch of the consultation and reminders will be placed ahead of the exhibitions. Press releases detailing the public consultation period and how the community and road users can participate will be issued.

Social Media

22. We will use social media, including targeted Facebook advertisements and twitter to broaden the reach of the consultation and encourage feedback.

Consultation feedback

23. Comments on the scheme can be made by:
- Completing the questionnaire, which will be available at all consultation events or online by visiting: www.highways.gov.uk/m42-j6
 - Email: m42junction6@highwaysengland.co.uk
 - Post: Highways England, M42 J6 Project Team, The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN

Deposit point locations

24. You can also view consultation material during normal opening hours at each of the following deposit points. Materials available for inspection will include the consultation brochure, PEI report, NTS, SoCC, S48 Notice, DCO leaflet and plans of the scheme.

- **Birmingham City Council Offices**
1 Lancaster Circus, Queensway, Birmingham, B4 7DG
Monday to Thursday: 09.00 to 17.00hrs; Friday: 09.00 to 16.00hrs
 - **Balsall Common Library**
283 Kenilworth Road, Balsall Common, Coventry, CV7 7EL
Monday and Thursday: 10.00 to 18.00hrs; Tuesday: 10.00 to 17.00hrs
Friday: 14.00 to 17.00hrs; Saturday 10.00 to 16.00hrs
 - **Hampton in Arden Library**
39 Fentham Road, Hampton-in-Arden, Solihull, B92 0AY
Tuesday: 10.00 to 12.00hrs and 13.00 to 18.00hrs Friday: 13.00 to 17.00hrs
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- **Hobs Moat Library**
Ulleries Road, Hobs Moat, Solihull, B92 8EB
Monday and Tuesday: 10.00 to 17.00hrs; Thursday: 10.00 to 18.00hrs Friday
10.00 to 17.00hrs; Saturday 10.00 to 13.00hrs
- **Marston Green Library**
Land Lane Marston Green, Birmingham, B37 7DQ
Monday and Thursday: 10.00 to 13.00hrs and 14.00 to 18.00 hrs;
Wednesday: 11.00 to 13.00hrs; Saturday: 10.00 to 13.00hrs
- **Meriden Library**
The Green, Coventry, CV7 7LN
Monday and Thursday: 10.00 to 18.00hrs
Saturday: 10.00 to 13.00hrs
- **Solihull Central Library**
The Core, Homer Road, Solihull, B91 3RG
Monday and Thursday: 09.00 to 20.00hrs; Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday:
09.00 to 18.00hrs; Saturday 09.00 to 17.00hrs
- **South Yardley Library**
Yardley Road, Birmingham, B25 8LT
Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday: 11.00 to 13.00hrs and 14.00 to
17.00hrs; Thursday 11.00 to 13.00 and 14.00 to 19.00hrs
- **Warwick Library**
Shire Hall, Market Square, Warwick CV34 4UB
Monday to Thursday: 08.00 to 17.30hrs; Friday 08.00 to 17.00hrs; Saturday:
09.00 to 16.00hrs

You will be able to take away paper copies of the consultation brochure, which includes the questionnaire and the non-technical summary of the PEI report. All of this information will be available free of charge. Paper copies of other documents can be provided on request. Please contact the project team for further details.

Next steps

25. All comments made on the scheme will be recorded and carefully considered by Highways England and will be taken into account in developing the scheme proposal. An explanation of how comments received have shaped and influenced our proposals, will be reported in a Consultation Report prepared by Highways England which will accompany the DCO application as required by section 37(3) (c) of the Planning Act 2008. The Planning Inspectorate will decide whether the application meets the required standards to proceed to examination, and will determine whether Highways England's pre-application consultation has been adequate.
26. Highways England will collect and assess all responses to consultation before submitting the DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate. To allow time to do this, Highways England asks for feedback to be submitted by the close of statutory consultation at **23:59 on 19 February 2018**.
27. If you want to contact Highways England to find out more about the scheme and/or respond to the consultation, you can use one of the following methods:
 - Attend any of the public consultation events where you can meet the project team and complete a consultation questionnaire.
 - Visit the scheme webpage and view the consultation material online, where you can complete the consultation questionnaire :
www.highways.gov.uk/m42-j6
 - Collect a consultation questionnaire at one of the public viewing places and post it to; Highways England, M42 J6 Project Team, The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN.
 - Email: m42junction6@highwaysengland.co.uk
 - Write to us at Highways England, M42 J6 Project Team, The Cube, 199 Wharfside Street, Birmingham, B1 1RN
 - Call 0300 123 5000 (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday).

If you would like a representative to attend at a local event please get in touch. The deadline for all responses is **23:59 on 19 February 2018**.

Stakeholder Groups

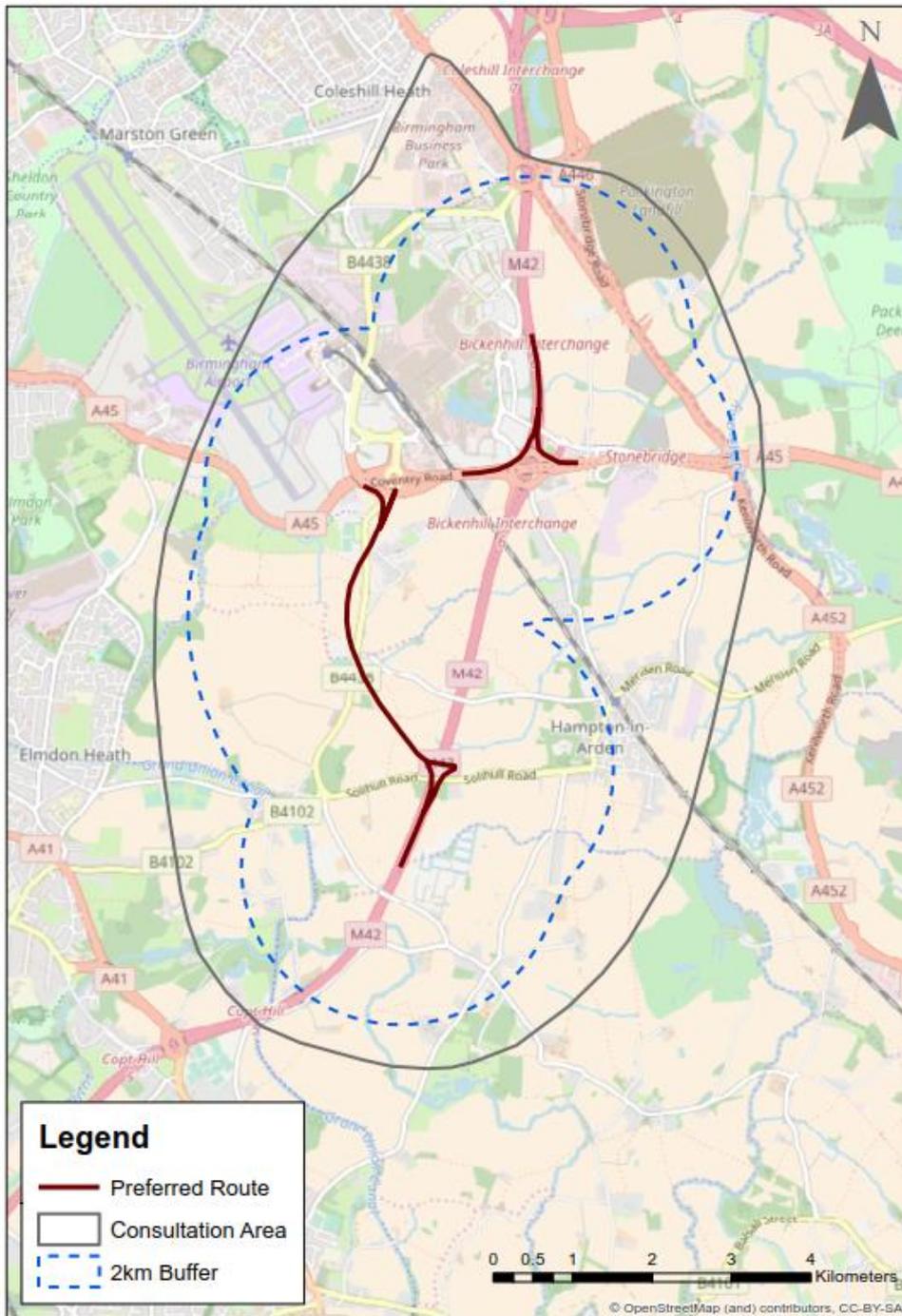
The following stakeholders will be engaged during the consultation process, as a minimum:

| Group | Members |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Local Government | Local Planning and Local Transport Authorities Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Warwickshire County Council Birmingham City Council Coventry City Council North Warwickshire Borough Council Parish Councils Local Economic Partnerships |
| Strategic Traffic Generators | Major Employers (incl. NEC, NMM, Birmingham Airport, Birmingham International Railway Station, Birmingham Business Park, Resort World) Local Hotels Event Organisers Shopping Centres Freight Hubs/Distribution Centres |
| Transport | Department for Transport AA/RAC Network rail Bus Operators (incl. Arriva, National Express) Taxi Operators Coach Operators Freight Transport Association Road Haulage Association |
| Political | Roads Minister Local MPs Local Councillors District Councillors Parish Councillors |
| Media | Local press National media – TV and radio Trade press Websites/social media |
| Emergency Services | Fire Police Ambulance |
| Statutory | Environment Agency Historic England Natural England Health and Safety Executive Planning Inspectorate [PINS] |
| Operational | Highways England Traffic Officers Highways England Maintenance Service Providers [Area 9 Kier Strategic Highways] |
| Residents and Local Businesses | Local properties (consultation boundary 2km and also residents of Catherine de Barnes and Hampton in Arden located outside of this |

| Group | Members |
|---|--|
| | area) |
| Land Owners | Those landowners directly affected by the route. Those landowners directly affected by the construction compounds. Those land owners where access is required for environmental and ground investigation surveys etc. |
| Regular and Visiting Road Users (via targeted face-book adverts) | Motorists – commuters/local traffic Pedestrians Cyclists Equestrians |
| Special Interest Groups | CPRE, Wildlife Trust, RSPB, Friends of the Earth, Sustrans, Cycling UK, Push Bikes Ramblers Cycle Solihull, Solihull Cycle Club, Jaguar Land Rover’s Bicycle User Group |
| Diverse Groups | Including, but not restricted to: The Better Living Centre, Solihull Solihull Muslim Community Association Gypsy and Travellers Organisation West Midlands Special Needs Transport - Ring and Ride St Peter's Church Saint Catherine's Church Parish Church of Saint Mary and Saint Bartholomew Solihull Youth, Renewal Solihull |

Consultation Boundary

Households within the consultation boundary will receive invitations to the consultation in January 2018. The consultation boundary is constructed with a 1.2 mile (2km) buffer around the preferred route. Where the boundary cuts a village, such as with Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes, the consultation boundary has been expanded to be inclusive of all properties in the village.



If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call 0300 123 5000 and we will help you.

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or email psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

This document is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/highways

If you have any enquiries about this publication email info@highwaysengland.co.uk

or call 0300 123 5000*. Please quote the Highways England publications code PR36/17.

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