



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Friday 22 July 2022

Dear Church Lane Residents,

I am writing to you in connecting with the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) and the relocation of the M25 construction compound within the vicinity of Church Lane. As I am sure you will be aware, the LTC recently conducted a Local Refinement Consultation seeking views on a limited number of changes to the project. Regrettably, within this consultation, LTC neglected to draw appropriate attention to their proposed relocation of the M25 compound to be used during the construction of the project.

Until recently, the project proposals sited this compound in land west of North Road and north of Helipad Road (the orange area marked 1 on the enclosed map). However, the project now proposes to relocate this site to the adjoining field to the west of this site which will extend in a northern direction towards Church Lane (the purple area marked 2 on the map). This will bring the compound closer to Church Lane.

I have objected to this change to the project proposals and the lack of clarity in the way in which it has been communicated. This change should have been directly highlighted within the consultation materials to allow for residents to give informed positions on the proposals.

National Highways advise that this change had been initiated as Havering Council notified them at a previous consultation that the location would impact a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) of metropolitan importance. National Highways therefore argue that the newly proposed site would limit the impact upon the SINC and allow for a further portion of land to be removed from the Order Limits, between the M25 and Pea Lane, that would have been required for permanently for environmental mitigation.

National Highways also advised that the area of the compound closest to Church Lane is set aside for the temporary storage of earthworks which they state will act as an acoustic and visual barrier, during the construction period. Landscaping in the form of trees will provide screening between properties in the north and the compound to the south. They also advise that compound facilities with a height greater than 6m will be located as westerly as 'reasonably practicable', moving them further from Church Lane.

Finally, the project team have advised that the indicative layout of the compound proposes that lighting be kept to a minimum on the northeast section closest to Church Lane and their Code of Construction Practice requires contractors to comply with industry standards and to design, position and direct lighting to prevent or minimise light disturbance to nearby residents.

While the above mitigations are welcomed, if the revised proposals are implemented, I nonetheless remain concerned by the way this change has been considered and the absence of appropriate engagement with residents. To this end, I shall be submitting further remarks to the project, in addition to my earlier consultation response, to highlight local concerns and seek that they consider whether the Council's concerns regarding the initially proposed location can be satisfied with appropriate mitigation - in accordance with their original proposals. If you have any comments you wish to be included with this submission, please email me at [julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk) by Friday 29 July and please include Church Lane within the subject field.

With best wishes,

*Julia Lopez MP*

Telephone: 020 7219 2631

Email: [julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:julia.lopez.mp@parliament.uk)

Web: [www.julialopez.co.uk](http://www.julialopez.co.uk) Twitter: @julialopezmp