

**Proof of Evidence:**

**Slyne with Hest Resident**

**Presented to the Public Inquiry  
in relation to  
Lancashire County Council Planning  
Application Reference: 11/05/1584  
Completion of the Heysham to M6 Link**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference:  
APP/Q2371/V/07/1200928 &  
APP/Q2371/V/07/1200929**

**Submitted by Jane Boland on behalf of:**

**Transport Solutions for Lancaster and Morecambe (TSLM)**

- 1 I object to this road scheme for a number of reasons but I would like to concentrate on the impact this road will have on the area where I live. I have lived in Slyne -with- Hest for more than 12 years and, like many who live there, appreciate its separateness from Lancaster to the south, thanks to the drumlins to the east and west, the open fields and farmland, which are visited by foxes, polecats, stoats, deer, bats and a wide variety of birds, including owls, oyster-catchers, curlews and lapwings. This gives our area its semi-rural nature, which enhances the quality of village life which is appreciated by so many and which makes this a popular place to live.
- 2 However, most people would agree that a major disadvantage to living here is the daily journey at peak times on the A6 into Lancaster to get to work, or school, or to go shopping, and the inevitable prolonged trip home in the evening. For example, a trip into Lancaster, a journey of less than 2 miles, in the morning peak hour takes, on average, 30-45 minutes.
- 3 It is impossible to gauge journey times to catch a train at the station, or attend hospital appointments because of the congestion. This is local traffic; these vehicles are not going to the motorway. As a result, the traffic backs up from the town centre through Skerton and Beaumont. Interestingly, this problem rarely occurs in school holidays, where the same journey into the town centre can take 10 minutes. This seems to reinforce the supposition that most of the traffic is local.
- 4 Unfortunately, the proposed Heysham to M6 Link Road fails to deliver to the people of this area a resolution of the dreadful traffic congestion we have been forced to endure for years. It will, in fact, exacerbate the problem in several parts of the district, including the A6 to the north of Lancaster. The A6 is the main commuter route into Lancaster for people living in Carnforth, Bolton-le-Sands, Hest Bank and Slyne, and, as I have mentioned, is seriously congested at peak times.
- 5 Figures submitted by Lancashire County Council in the December 2005 Planning Application documents show a rise from a base figure in 2001 of 5700 to 11700 in 2010, when the Link Road is scheduled to open; a rise of 105%. This is more than double the daily average now. This means that twice as much traffic on the main commuter route into the city from the north. How will this be a benefit to the journey times of the majority of local people making local journeys?

- 6 There are already traffic lights at the A6 junction of Torrisholme Road and two sets of pedestrian-controlled lights, to which will be added a new set of lights at Beaumont Gate Farm, which will slow the traffic even more, causing tailbacks further along the A6 through Slyne in the morning peak hour, and on the A6 north through Skerton and Beaumont in the evening peak hour. How will this be a benefit to the journey times of local people?
- 7 Vehicles approaching the proposed traffic lights at Beaumont Gate Farm from the north will do so round a bend in the road. This is a potential hazard as drivers, especially those who disregard speed limits, will be unable to see any standing traffic until it is too late. Has there been any investigation into how many vehicles will be waiting at this junction at peak times and how far back along the A6 this line of traffic will extend?
- 8 In the morning peak hour, most of the traffic on the A6 is heading south to Lancaster. With the opening of the Link Road, there will be some increase in traffic travelling north to the Beaumont Gate Farm junction. Cars parked outside Beaumont College and outside homes in Skerton narrow the road space considerably and impede the traffic flow, which is hindered further with the passage of HGVs and buses. This extra traffic must also pass in front of St Luke's Primary School, where young children need to cross the road before and after school.
- 9 Simultaneously, traffic on Hest Bank Lane is predicted to double. This is a residential road where cars will queue to filter onto the A6, spewing out carbon-monoxide fumes for the residents to breathe in. There are, furthermore, traffic issues on Hest Bank Lane regarding a Car Sales Business which has been brought to the attention of the Parish Council, our City Councillor, the police and the Highways Department of Lancashire County Council.
- 10 Employees and visitors to the garage park on the road near the junction with the A6. Cars leaving the A6 are forced onto the wrong side of the road which is made more dangerous by the fact that there is a bend and visibility is restricted. This hazard will be exacerbated by the extra volume of traffic on Hest Bank Lane, particularly at peak times. Queues of traffic on Hest Bank Lane will force drivers to seek alternative routes to get to the A6 along other residential roads, for example Throstle Grove.

- 11 The proposed Heysham-M6 Link Road fails dismally to solve the one thing which most residents want: an improvement in local congestion. What is galling is that the situation will be twice as bad, and disgruntled commuters will find alternative routes to get to their destination. Those commuters using the Link Road to travel west to Morecambe and Heysham will encounter more congestion at the Morecambe Road roundabout once they get past the congestion on the A6. Roads which according to the Council's traffic figures are predicted to see a reduction in vehicle movements, for example Bottomdale Road, Hasty Brow and Coastal Road will enjoy a short-lived respite when drivers fed up with sitting in even longer queues of traffic will go back to their original route along these roads.
- 12 The construction of the road will involve raising and re-aligning the A6 at Beaumont College as far as Beaumont Gate Farm. This will affect a number of houses, which will be overlooked by vehicles on the A6. The increase in the volume of traffic will lead to increased noise and air pollution which is distressing for those people affected including the patients at St John's Hospice and the students at Scope's Beaumont College.
- 13 Lancashire County Council proclaims on signs at the county's borders that Lancashire is "a place where everyone matters". Many residents feel that they do not seem to matter, as the Council failed to consult adequately, presenting this scheme as a fait accompli, with little regard to Government policies on maintaining landscape character and controlling traffic by reducing the need to travel. I have no reason to believe that this road scheme will benefit the residents of Slyne and others who live to the north of Lancaster.

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