

From: [Redacted]
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Planning Application Ful/2024/0022
Date: 31 October 2024 14:35:24
Attachments: [Redacted]

WARNING: External email, think before you click!

Dear [Redacted]

Please find below the consultation response to the abovementioned application on behalf of **Broadland District Council**:

Broadland District Council is responding to the consultation from Norfolk County Council dated 12th June 2024 in respect of the Norwich Western Link planning application, reference FUL/2024/0022 (the proposed scheme). Please accept my apologies for the delay in getting this response back to you. The Council is responding in its role as a District Council as a whole rather than at a service level and the following comments are subject to the County Council having due regard to all material considerations, including the response from Broadland's Environmental Quality Team which sought updates and further details concerning the construction environmental management plan, site waste management plan, materials management plan, air quality and noise and vibration.

It is the Council's understanding that the major objectives of the proposed scheme are as follows, with a response provided to each below:

Improve strategic connectivity with the national road network

Broadland's residents and businesses have benefited in terms of connectivity to the A11 trunk road and the A47 eastbound from the full opening of the Broadland Northway in April 2018. However, connections to the A47 trunk road travelling west remain challenging due to the 'missing link' between the Broadland Northway where it terminates at the A1067 and the A47. The proposed scheme would complete this link and would therefore create more opportunities for residents and businesses of Broadland to access the national road network.

Support sustainable economic growth

At present the road connectivity from Broadland to the A47 westbound for all residents and eastbound for those residents wanting to access the A11 from the west of the district is poor, and relies on vehicles having to travel through rural roads and villages that are not ideal for high volumes of traffic or large vehicles such as HGVs. This makes access to major employment sites within and outside of the district challenging for residents to access. The proposed scheme will provide this link, to the benefit of residents and the major employment sites such as Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, the University of East Anglia and Longwater Retail Park and help in improving capacity to support the development of proposed employment sites in the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

Improve the quality of life for local communities

The proposed scheme would create a direct link between the A1067 and the A47 which would be to the benefit of residents who currently experience significant traffic through their areas, including HGVs. The roads were not designed to cater for strategic traffic and this behaviour impacts on residential amenity, quality of life and limits active travel opportunities for local residents. Traffic calming measures through the villages have been provided and non-residential roads have been reclassified as HGV routes further west, but this is not considered to be sufficient to prevent vehicles taking short cuts through the rural villages. The residents of Ringland and Weston Longville in particular would see benefits from the proposed scheme as they see significant levels of traffic travelling through their areas.

Promote an improved environment

By providing a link between the A1067 and the A47 the proposed scheme will provide a more direct route that will reduce travel time and cut congestion, particularly along the rural roads and through areas such as Weston Longville and Ringland. This will be to the benefit of these villages but the road will have significant effects on the environment, as described in the Environmental Statement that supports the planning application. It is noted that where a negative (or 'adverse') likely significant effect is identified, the Environmental Statement makes recommendations to avoid, or reduce the severity of, the negative effect. The Environmental Statement then assesses the resulting (or 'residual') effect, taking into account the measures recommended to avoid or reduce the significance of the negative effect.

In summary, therefore, Broadland District Council notes the proposed scheme as submitted in planning application reference FUL/2024/0022 and the consultee comments.

Regards,

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Assistant Director - Planning

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