

# Paper Petition Details

## Information Event re: The Myrke in Datchet - M4 Junctions 3 to 12 Smart Motorway

We, the residents of The Myrke, demand a direct explanation from the Highways Agency pertaining to its intention to carry out works to the M4, particularly between Junctions 5 and 6. We expect Slough Borough Council to take direct action and organise an urgent meeting between us and the Highways Agency.

**This petition was received on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.**

**This petition was passed to the Acting Head of Transport on 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.**

**This petition was responded to by the Acting Head of Transport on 11<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.**

### Final Results

Number of Signatures	79
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### Council Response

Thank you very much for your petition with regard to the M4 Motorway and more specifically your concerns with regards to the project and potential impact on the Myrke.

Slough Borough Council is responsible for the local road network, which consists of the majority of classified, unclassified and adopted roads within the Borough including the A4 and A355. However, Slough Borough Council *does not* have authority, ownership or responsibility for the Motorway network. The M4 forms part of the Motorway Network and is managed wholly by the Highways Agency, an executive agency of the Department for Transport.

#### SMART Motorway Project

The M4 consultation exercise that you refer to in your email is in fact a Highways Agency project entitled M4 Smart, with consultation being undertaken by the Highways Agency, with both residents and Local Authorities concurrently.

The M4 smart project (formerly known as Managed Motorways) is a Highways Agency project that is aimed at improving capacity along the M4 between Junction 3 and Junction 12 utilising 'smart' solutions. These solutions include variable speed limits, queue detection and protection technologies as well as more traditional infrastructure based solutions such as strengthening the hard shoulder to allow it to be used during peak hours to ease traffic flow.

#### SMART Consultation to date

The Highways Agency in partnership with their consultants on this project, Mouchels, have been undertaking a number of consultation events along the M4, with an event having been undertaken on 27th March 2014 at The Copthorne Hotel in Slough. The publicity and communication of this event and others have been undertaken by the Highways Agency and the Council were invited to view the proposals at these events. I appreciate that residents from The Myrke did not receive the consultation letters until after the event, this was an oversight by the Highways Agency. The Highways Agency did apologise for this mistake and understand that this did not afford the residents the opportunity to ask questions. We have been assured that the

residents from The Myrke will be included in future discussions/consultations.

In terms of the current proposals; these have been consulted upon and are at a pre-submission stage, there is still plenty of opportunity to make comments upon the proposals. We have been provided an outline programme for the M4 smart project as it involves extensive engagement and consultation with local stakeholders.

Key dates and milestones include the need to develop a Statement of Community Consultation (SOCC) which was due to be completed by the end of April 2014, a draft submission of this SOCC is due to be submitted with designs for the project in July 2014, with a Phase 2 consultation being undertaken around September 2014. Following the Phase 2 consultation a submission of designs will be submitted by the end of 2014 with the Planning Inspectorate reviewing the design, consultee comments etc throughout 2015. This stage will provide a further opportunity for stakeholders and interested parties to submit comments to be considered, prior to a decision on the scheme being made in May 2016.

### **Future Engagement with the Highways Agency**

Although the recent consultation events have been light touch we are trying to ascertain more details about the M4 Smart project so we can disseminate the information available to all affected parties.

We are in communication with the Highways Agency to discuss the possibility of setting up another more detailed consultation event for Slough Residents to discuss their concerns and will publicise any event proposed so all affected residents, businesses and stakeholders can have their say and discuss their concerns. At this moment in time, there is limited information available and therefore a meeting would not provide you with sufficient detail to allay any concerns. To assist residents Slough Borough Council has set up a webpage to provide information about the scheme on their website, which can be found at: <http://www.slough.gov.uk/parking-travel-and-roads/smart-motorway-plan-for-m4-junctions-3---12-.aspx>. As information becomes available we will update the webpage.

If you require further information on the project please do not hesitate to contact us at:

[TfS@slough.gov.uk](mailto:TfS@slough.gov.uk)

or the Highways Agency project team directly on:

[M4J3to12SmartMotorways@highways.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:M4J3to12SmartMotorways@highways.gsi.gov.uk)

More details about the scheme are available on the Highways Agency website, <http://www.highways.gov.uk/roads/road-projects/m4-junctions-3-12/>