

HOLCOT PARISH COUNCIL

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To Whom it may concern,

On behalf of the Parishioners of Holcot Village, please find enclosed a completed copy of your survey relating to the Northampton Northern Orbital Route.

In addition to many Parishioners and Councillors attending the Moulton College presentation, we had an open morning with a display of the plans in the village, and debated this at length in our most recent Parish Council meeting. This response is based on the feedback of Parishioners and the composite view of the community.

In addition to the specific responses to the questions, we would also like to register the following concerns for further consideration as part of the consultation:

1. Holcot Parish remains concerned for the safety of pedestrians, including children in rush hour particularly, as we do not consider that any of the current proposals do anything to protect neighbouring villages from “rat-running” and excessive speed. The approval of any route needs to

- place compensating measures as part of a comprehensive scheme.
2. We are concerned that at points when any new roads are closed even temporarily due to accidents, that there is the potential for HGVs to be re-routed through the village, opening these up to more risk. Holcot already has a HGV problem, and it is unlikely that the proposals alone will remove this traffic.
 3. Currently, it is anticipated the road will be completed prior to the completion of the Overstone Leys development, meaning the true extent of the volumes and direction of traffic will not become known until several years later. Until we see final plans for the entrance / exit routes for these developments (and any changes to the A43 through to Kettering), we can have no confidence on the likely traffic flows, their volume and direction. We are aware that Moulton Heights has been removed from the planning of this road, but have no confirmation that the scheme will not re-appear, so adding to the risks. These plans need long-term clarity before any decision is taken.
 4. The proposed routes create the potential for significant volumes of traffic to pass through the village of Holcot (and Walgrave/Hannington), particularly if the proposed roundabouts create delays in traffic or the 'Holcot route' is attractive to motorists. It is likely that the GPS linked modern navigation devices will send people to alternative routes at busy times, that will increase traffic through villages at the proximity of the newly expanded A43 and the new Northern Orbital.
 5. The impact numbers cited in the proposals were presented without any background on their basis or calculation. Holcot would welcome an explanation on how the traffic in and out flows were calculated and how the "Orbital" reductions were calculated. In addition, we would be grateful for projections of the impact of the proposals on the East-West Brixworth Road/Sywell Road route when the Overstone Leys development is built.

Whilst we have preferences regarding the routes, the main feedback from the community was that they did not like the roundabouts on the Moulton Lane junction or at Boughton Fair Lane, as they added significantly to the risks of rat-running and taking of short-cuts that would obviate the benefits of a new Orbital (by-pass) road, leading to substantial traffic and road safety issues in Holcot and surrounding villages. As noted above, these junctions

make the route North/South through Holcot very attractive to motorists and also GPS navigation systems.

We would appreciate further dialogue with the planning authorities and Councils, including alternative routes and limiting access via roundabouts which prevent the roads through Holcot becoming a shortcut to the significantly increased volumes of traffic, which the new developments and the orbital route will inevitably bring.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Callan
Clerk
Holcot Parish Council

cc :
Judy Shephard, County Councillor
Ann Carter, District Councillor
Holcot Village Website
Moulton Parish Council
Hannington Parish Council
Walgrave Parish Council