

Dear Sir/Madam,

Atkins, on behalf of the Highways Agency, is currently undertaking a five year after Post Opening Project Evaluation (POPE) study of the impacts of the **A46 Newark to Widmerpool improvement** and seeking the opinions of the statutory bodies and county/ district/ parish councils on the local environmental impacts of the scheme, I would like to invite you to contribute to the process.

The main aim of POPE is to assess how far the schemes have been successful in meeting their objectives and whether there have been any other impacts, expected or otherwise, and involves analysing traffic flows and changes, accident rates, user benefits and costs. Additionally, we look at the effects of the scheme on the local environment, accessibility and other local issues.

Using observed data we are able to identify actual changes in traffic patterns and accident trends, and therefore, infer the likely impact on the community. However, if you would like to provide appropriate comment or further information on behalf of the parish council regarding the **impacts on the local community** (eg. access to the A46, severance, non motorised user provision, pleasantness of the local area, safety) then this would be most welcome.

I have also included some **environmental** topics for your consideration below. Please could you comment on the following topics, also indicating if the impacts are **worse than expected, as expected, or better than expected** with regard to the following issues:

- Noise
- Local air quality
- Heritage
- Landscape and visual impact
- Biodiversity
- Water quality and drainage
- Physical fitness (i.e. the use of footpaths, cycleways, bridleways and other Public Rights of Way)
- Journey ambience (i.e. traveller care facilities/ views and driver stress).

If you would also like to provide appropriate comment or further information regarding any other environmental aspect of the scheme (e.g. lighting, signage) this would be most welcome.

A full report will be produced for publication later this year, and it would be much appreciated if you could distribute this to the appropriate persons with a view to discuss and respond by **Wednesday 31 May 2017**. I have attached the one year after POPE report for your information.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch; my contact details are provided in my email.

Thank you in advance,

Jean Coultas
Principal Environmental Consultant,