

Kate Beirne – Project Manager
Highways England
The Cube
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Dear Ms Beirne,

RE: M6 Smart Motorway Implementation between J16 and J19

Last Week Cheshire East Council met with a number of local residents from Cranage, regarding their concerns about noise and air pollution from the planned Smart M6 Motorway scheme.

The outcome of the meeting, with regards to air quality, was that the Council agreed to undertake additional diffusion tube monitoring at sensitive locations in the area prior to the Smart Motorway works commencing. This is in addition to a new monitoring site that was set up earlier this year. Monitoring will continue whilst the works are being carried out and for a relevant period after the completion of the smart motorway. The outcome of the monitoring will then be considered in accordance with the Council's statutory air quality reporting process.

In relation to the issue of noise, the Council appreciates that the implementation of the Smart Motorway is supported by an Environmental Assessment Report (EAR), which included baseline noise measurements from 2013. We are also aware that the EAR outlined some areas where additional noise mitigation should be provided.

However as Director of Public Health, I share the residents' concerns regarding the potential health impacts of the current noise from the motorway, and also the impact of the planned modifications to the M6. At a meeting in September 2015 with Cheshire East officers, I am aware that Highways England agreed to revisit the EAR with a view to determining whether any further noise measurement work was appropriate. The purpose of the measurements being to determine if the current noise levels exceed the criteria set by the World Health Organisation and other relevant standards. If additional monitoring indicated noise levels were above the relevant standards, this would, in turn, start a dialogue regarding possible mitigation measures that might be provided to improve the situation for the residents.

Clearly, it would not be practical to revisit the entire EAR assessment, however the residents have reasonably requested that some shorter, more limited measurements be undertaken in the Cranage area. I am not aware that any further monitoring has been undertaken to update the results of 2013 as has previously been discussed and therefore would like to request that this action be undertaken *prior to* the Smart Motorway works commencing.

I would welcome your views on the above. Where any additional noise monitoring has been undertaken in the Cranage area since 2013, I would appreciate it if these results could be shared with the Council.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. Grimbaldeston', written in a cursive style.

Dr Heather Grimbaldeston
Director of Public Health
Cheshire East Council