

Jason Longhurst
Director Regeneration and Business
Central Bedfordshire Council
Priory House
Chicksands
Shefford
Bedfordshire SG17 5TQ

SENT BY EMAIL

12 July 2018

Dear Mr Longhurst

A6 - M1 Link Road - Public Consultation on Design and Layout

I refer to your email dated 10 July 2018 headed "Plans for the new M1-A6 Link Road" providing us with details of Public Drop-In Sessions that you have planned at various locations for the period 17th till 30th July.

CPRE Bedfordshire is very concerned indeed at the very late notice of this public consultation of a major new road which will severely impact the Chilterns AONB and which is of considerable concern to local residents.

The timing of it which has come without any prior warning, in the main summer holiday period when many residents of Central Bedfordshire will be away, could not be more badly planned.

State school summer holidays start on July 23 - other schools break up earlier.

It seems to us that the sole intention is to ensure minimal public knowledge of the sessions, low attendance and low public awareness of your Council's plans for the new Link Road.

In our view, this consultation is nothing less than an affront to the local democratic process.

25 years of standing up for Bedfordshire's countryside 1987-2012

CPRE Bedfordshire is the Bedfordshire Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England which exists to promote the beauty, tranquillity and diversity of rural England.
We advocate positive solutions for the long term future of the countryside.

We would be very grateful if you would please advise the following:

1. Which organisations have been advised of the consultation and how and when were they advised?
2. Have the residents of Central Bedfordshire likely to be impacted by the proposed new Link Road been advised by CBC of the Consultation Drop-In Sessions - and if so which residents, when, by whom and by what method?
3. Has the Planning Inspector responsible for assessing CBC's Local Plan 2035 recently submitted for approval, been advised of your actions and the relevant timescales?
4. How does the programme for any planning application for the A6 - M1 Link Road interact with the programme for the adoption of the Local Plan?

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Gerry Sansom
CPRE Bedfordshire

Copies sent by email to:

- Chief Executive Central Bedfordshire Council
- Leader Central Bedfordshire Council