

Our ref: SU 735 066
Your ref: APP/14/00352

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Dear Mr Cantwell

PROPOSED FLOOD DEFENCE AT LAND NORTH OF A27, HAVANT

I am writing further to the Highways Agency's consultation response of 9 March 2015 to this planning application, for a flood alleviation scheme at land north of the A27, Havant.

The Highways Agency, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Transport, directed that planning permission should not be granted for a specified time expiring on 4 May 2015. The reason for this was that there was insufficient detail of the proposed scheme for the Agency to form a view on the potential impacts upon the A27. The Agency's concern was to ensure that the scheme would not pose a safety threat to the operation of the A27 for example by impacting upon the highway drainage or undermining the highway embankment.

As you are aware, on 1 April 2015 Highways England replaced the Highways Agency as highway authority for the strategic road network in England. Highways England has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Transport as strategic highway company under the provisions of the Infrastructure Act 2015 and is the highway authority, traffic authority and street authority for the strategic road network (SRN). The SRN is a critical national asset and as such Highways England works to ensure that it operates and is managed in the public interest, both in respect of current activities and needs as well as in providing effective stewardship of its long-term operation and integrity.

The proposal is still under development and there is currently no clarity over what the form and location of the flood defence would be. We are continuing to work with the Environment Agency as they develop this proposal and have already agreed a temporary flood mitigation scheme for the Nore Farm Stream which I understand has been implemented.

Highways England is not able to extend this 'holding direction', however we remain of the view that this application is not yet in a form to be granted permission. Therefore we

recommend that Havant Borough Council do not permit this application unless and until we have agreed a scheme with the Environment Agency that does not impact upon the A27 drainage and structures.

This letter does not constitute a formal recommendation from Highways England. We will provide formal recommendation later when we can be confident that the application is in its final form. To assist us with this we would be grateful if you would advise when you expect to determine the application.

Yours sincerely



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