

Upgrades to Rough Common Road

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To: consultations@canterbury.gov.uk <consultations@canterbury.gov.uk>

With reference to the proposals to upgrade Rough Common Road I have the utmost concern about the wisdom of these proposals. The need for a major re-think on the future traffic flow control in and around the city has been apparent for some years now, while the knock-on effects to local traffic flow of a new eastern tunnel under the Thames is still far from clear, this just provides another variable to complicate the problem.

However, the effect on Rough Common of the proposal is clearly apparent and already causing financial concerns to the inhabitants of the village. When we moved into the area twenty-three years ago Rough Common Road was little more than a country lane. The positioning of traffic lights at the junction with the A2050 simply made it a cut-through for traffic from North East Kent. This traffic flow is restrained by both geometry and constriction. In two places the road is narrowed by residential buildings which would need to be demolished if continuous traffic flow was the objective while Palmers' Cross Hill will require major reconstruction to provide smooth and safe flow onto the A2050. Also it is noted that the inhabitants of Rough Common Road would be unable to park on the road outside of their properties at any time And what do the dustmen and delivery drivers do?and as to the effect on house values, is the Council offering compensation?

If, because the land to the north of Rough Common Road is protected as 'Ancient Forest' then the road cannot be widened to the north while the number of minor streets with houses on the south side would require traffic lights to obtain access - that is five sets of lights in less than a mile for the south side alone!! There are also at least four more roads with dwellings on the north side which will need access. Such a scheme would cut the village in two and make crossing the road for pedestrians virtually impossible. The noise and pollution from the road would be unhealthy and dangerous to the young and old alike.

I think perhaps the original proposal to make a new road to cross Duke's Meadow at the foot of the sports field is the only option that makes any sort of sense at all at this moment. The potential cost of the above proposal is simply beyond imagination. Has anyone actually done even as much as a trial costing?

Row Howgill, MSc. etc. (retired C.Eng.)