Mr J. O’Sullivan

Chief Executive

Highways England Company Ltd

Bridge House

1 Walnut Tree Close

Guildford

GU1 4LZ

Date

Dear Mr O’Sullivan

**Re: A358 Taunton to Southfields Dualling Scheme.**

I write to you in your capacity as Chief Executive Officer of Highways England Ltd.

I am one of the many people who will be directly affected by the above proposal.

I have attended exhibitions, questioned Highways England Ltd representatives, attended local meetings and read the documentation supplied by your company. On at least two previous occasions this road scheme has been proposed and subsequently dropped. On both occasions the announced route had been, what most local people considered a fair route, which would form a meaningful by-pass for the village of Henlade. On this round of consultations that route is not being considered.

The present proposal to route a new six kilometre dual carriageway to a new closed motorway Junction 25A, to the south of Taunton would be an unnecessary travesty. The proposed scheme is possibly the least expensive but offers the lowest benefit to cost ratio and does not, as far as I can ascertain, fulfil any of the criteria set down by Government:

* The proposed route will not bring any economic benefit locally.
* The scheme will not markedly reduce local congestion, particularly through Henlade.
* It actually increases noise levels and accidents.
* The proposal will have a massive impact on the local environment, ancient woodlands, prime arable land and landscape.

Currently, you are consulting on only one preferred route. It is not the route required by the District Council, requested by the County Council or desired by the population of the areas which will be forever changed by this scheme.

I strongly urge you to reconsider and put forward for public consultation the other options that connect to Junction 25 and as such meet the objectives stated in the currently supplied documentation. I would be grateful for a timely response as the deadline for submissions is now 16 July.

Yours Faithfully

Sign

Your name and address