

FARTHINGHOE PARISH COUNCIL



To All Farthinghoe Residents

19 August 2019

Subject-Farthinghoe Bypass

Just recently we have received a routine newsletter sent from KierWsp who are the highways contractor for Northamptonshire County Council.

Close scrutiny of this detailed document revealed that Northamptonshire County Council had submitted 3 bid proposals for MRN funding but with the Farthinghoe bypass bid not being included. We felt that something was seriously amiss because we had previously been advised on several occasions by our MP, Andrea Leadsom, that she had agreed with political leaders at the County Council that the Farthinghoe Bypass MRN bid for funding would be prepared and submitted by 31 July 2019.

A subsequent check with Andrea confirmed that she, like us, was totally unaware of any change to her agreement.

Thus, we must assume that Northampton County Council have chosen to unilaterally renege on the agreement without having the courtesy to advise anyone.

We now know that the decision to proceed with these 3 bids was not made at Cabinet Level at the County Council, but it is not absolutely clear to us when this decision was made & by whom.

The decision has clearly caused a delay in Farthinghoe's only current opportunity for a funding bid for a much needed and justified bypass, whilst it had allowed a bid to finance the Towcester Relief Road.

We have now been assured that Northampton County Council had previously been advised that the Towcester Relief Road already has full funding agreed (we believe from Persimmon & Highways England) & it has no requirement for what NCC glibly describes as a "back-up" bid.

Clerk:

Mrs Mary Amos
Chestrees, 17 Tenlands,
Middleton Cheney, OX17 2NL
Telephone: 07791 732082

Chairman:

Mr Mick Morris
Telephone: 07867 545869

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It is also not clear how the A5 road qualifies for an MRN bid when it is actually SRN Highway administered by Highways England.

Who made this decision & why?

John Grant & I have already arranged a meeting on 4 September with Cllr Jason Smithers, Portfolio Holder for Northants Highways, in order to learn more about why this has happened & what is going to be done to rectify this situation & put it back on track.

Andrea Leadsom has also confirmed a meeting on 12 September with NCC, SEMLEP & EEHSA with similar intent in mind.

Should anyone wish to express their concerns about this unilateral action by Northamptonshire County Council, then Andrea would be pleased to hear from you.

She can be contacted by letter

The RT HON. ANDREA LEADSOM MP
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

Or by email

andrea.leadsom.mp@parliament.uk

In the interim period, as we learn more, we will keep you informed

We must be very clear that this is a delay & not a cancellation of the Bid & that we are actively researching other funding options which could assist in the recovery of the position

Rgds

Mick Morris

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