**A66 Meeting Held on Friday 23rd July 2021 at Warcop Village Hall**

**Attendees: Mr David Keetley (Warcop PC Chairman) Mr Tim Wells (Musgrave PC Chairman) Mr Mark Blackett-Ord County Councillor Andy Connelly Mr Colin Harrison (Warcop PC) Mr Mike Clarke (Musgrave PC) MP Dr Neil Hudson + members of the community.**

Mr Keetley and Mr Mark Blackett-Ord kindly gave a talk and presentation to the residents with a brief summary of what has been proposed by Highways England so far with likely timescales, and Mr Blackett-Ord outlined the reasoning behind our alternative northern bypass proposal. HE will submit a planning application (DCO) in spring 2022 so there is little time to persuade them to change their minds.

The following points were raised by residents

1. Mr Welch who represented the travelling community attended as “Brough Hill,” which hosts the travelling community each September, is on the proposed HE route for the new A66. An alternative field has been suggested but the travelling community do not want to give up “Brough Hill” as it is part of their cultural and historic heritage, (dating back by charter to the 14th century) and for future generations to attend. The travelling community are behind the better North route as this would take the new dual carriageway away from the hill. He proposed at the very least a straight line between Brough and Warcop for the new road.
2. Why is the MOD land classed as an AONB? When was this changed and what was the purpose of this? Resident will use the Freedom of Information act to find out. May residents described the MOD’s treatment of AONB land as disgraceful.
3. Why are there complex junctions for Sandford, Warcop, Flitholme and Langrigg which will cause delays and problems, when a cheaper northern route through MOD land would be more appropriate? No significant bridges or underpasses would be required in this scheme.
4. Highways England have dismissed the North route because of the AONB, but they are proposing to build a service road along the MOD tank park area which is AONB land. This is a total contradiction to what Highways have previously been saying.
5. Flooding is a major concern to all residents as not only would the extra surface water from the A66 be a concern this would put pressure on the River Eden not only in Warcop but further down into Appleby. Ask Eden Rivers Trust and the Environment Agency to work alongside to look at flood prevention. The proposed under passes on the North route would be permanently flooded and unpassable.
6. The northern route would be much cheaper and easier to build as there would be only two complex junctions, flyovers or underpasses to build, and construction would be well away from the existing road.
7. Mr Keetley and Mr Blackett-Ord would like to get a civil engineer to walk the proposed north route, subject to the MOD’s permission, to see if this land is feasible for the new dual carriageway and put this to Highways England.
8. A resident will put together a Change.org petition and a Facebook page to help get much needed signatures.
9. Encourage as many residents as possible to attend the final consultation phase in September/October to feedback to Highways England.
10. Meeting closed at 6.45pm