

Earls Barton and Grendon Parish Councils

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xxxx 2024

Dear *insert recipient*,

The Parish Councils of Earls Barton and Grendon would like to thank you for the response provided on 29.10.24 regarding Station Road, between Pastures Farm and White Mills Marina. We appreciate that, in addition to the four pothole works scheduled for January 2025, the road is also due for coring assessments to investigate the structural capacity of the road at this location. We look forward to direct communication confirming where this road will now sit within the NNC's priorities and considerations for 2025/26.

Whilst we appreciate both the reference to the clearing of the culverts and to the investigations regarding the structural soundness of the bridges we must point out, once again, the original focus of the letter which was to address the failing state of the road surface.

The council's would like to reiterate that the combination of:

- high numbers of heavy transport lorries,
- increased flooding (currently 4 episodes in 2024) and
- growing numbers of commuter vehicles,

has led to a failing road surface.

This must be addressed as a matter of urgency and be given priority status within the NNC's asset considerations for the coming financial year.

Additionally, it must now *also* be noted that this road is woefully unsuitable for the proposed solar farm planning application by Greenhill/Island Green Power.

Whilst the historic investigations of the 3 bridges have identified them as safe for *current* traffic it will not be suitable for increased construction traffic due to:

- it never being constructed for the axle loading currently experienced from loaded aggregate lorries and HGV's;
- the number of lorries that it already takes;
- the evidenced short life of all temporary repairs;
- limited width, bend acuteness and accessibility;
- increased flooding and road closures.

The possible addition of extremely heavy traffic resulting from the potential development of the proposed solar farm will:

- increase the damage because the road does not have the capacity to sustain greater numbers of HGV's, loaded aggregate lorries or the proposed abnormal loads
- negatively impact on residents required to use this route for commuting
- increase the risk of road traffic accidents (one already with current traffic levels in this financial year alone)
- increase the damage from the inevitable flooding.

The Council's would like to:

1. Reiterate the need for this road to be categorised as a priority consideration for NNC;
2. To ask that we are advised directly of any decisions regarding prioritisation for the coming financial year;
3. Be supported in the objection for this road to be classed as a suitable access point for any future, proposed or planned, development and planning applications.

We look forward to your urgent response to these points.

Yours Sincerely,

Chairs of Earls Barton and Grendon Parish Councils