Broughton
Parish Council

20 November 2024

ALC2604
New Shire Hall
Emery Crescent
Enterprise Campus
Alconbury Weald
Huntingdon
PE28 4YE

Subject: A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme

Dear Sirs

Executive Summary

Broughton Parish Council has considered the proposed A141 and St Ives package of improvements. This has included review of the material presented on the study's website and attendance of the 17th October 2024 webinar.

From the material provided to date, we believe that the improvements included in the package will have little, if any benefit to Broughton, but are likely have an adverse impact. We also note that no consideration has been given by the study team to the developments proposed in Huntingdonshire District Council's Local Plan updates. We believe that in combination, the A141 and St Ives Improvement Package and Local Plan proposals would have a major negative impact on Broughton and nearby villages.

This letter includes:

- A brief description of Broughton and the roads which serve it
- Comments on the current problems we have with traffic
- Comments on the likely impacts from the A141 and St Ives Improvement Package
- Comments on the potential further impacts from proposed developments in the Local Plan update
- Conclusions and recommendations for the scope of the assessment of the A141 and St Ives Improvement Package

Introduction

Broughton is a small village just over 1km west of the A141 and around 2km south-west of Warboys. The village dates back to Anglo-Saxon times and much of the village is within a Conservation Area.

The village is served by three minor roads, two of which connect to the A141. The roads meet at a T-junction in the centre of the village which has restricted visibility. The roads carry both vehicular and pedestrian traffic since much of the village is without pavements. The roads are narrow and subject to rat-run traffic.

As a small village, facilities are limited to a pub, church and village hall. The only public transport available is the RH3 which makes a single stop in the village on a Thursday. So, the village is heavily dependent on personal cars and delivery vehicles

Broughton's Roads

Broughton is just over 1km to the west of the A141, with two of the three roads into the village connecting directly to the A141:

- Broughton Lane, which is a single-track road with passing places. Broughton Lane leads to Causeway Road, and
- Bridge Road, which is a narrow unclassified road

Both roads have 7.5 tonne advisory limits due to the bridges over the Bury Brook, which passes through Broughton.

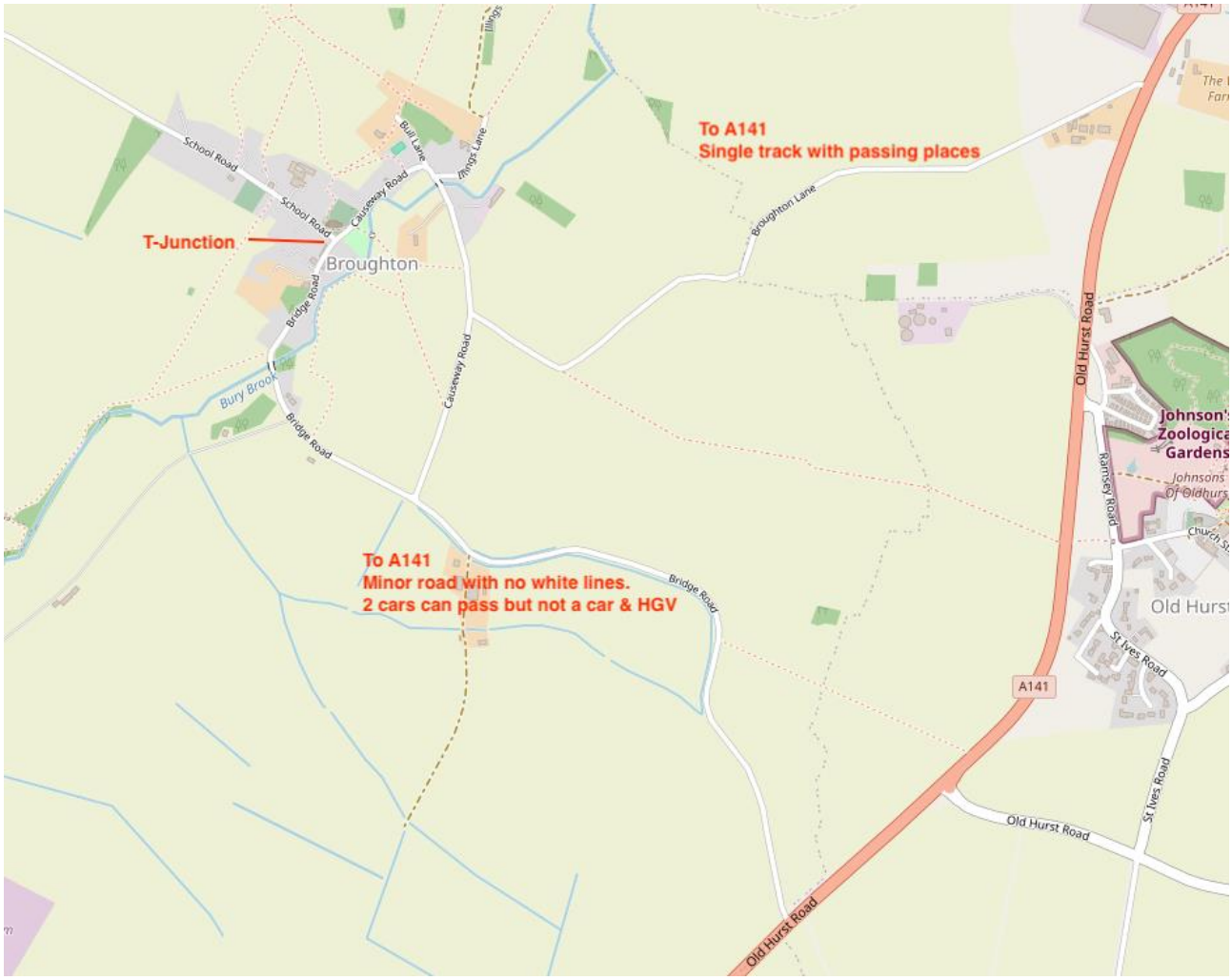


Figure 1: (c) OpenStreetMap

The third access road for the village, School Road, meets Causeway Road and Bridge Road at a T-junction in the centre of the village. This intersection has restricted visibility, particularly the Bridge Road / School Road corner, which is blocked by a high brick wall, as shown in the photographs below. The Grade II listed churchyard wall at this intersection has been damaged by vehicle collision.

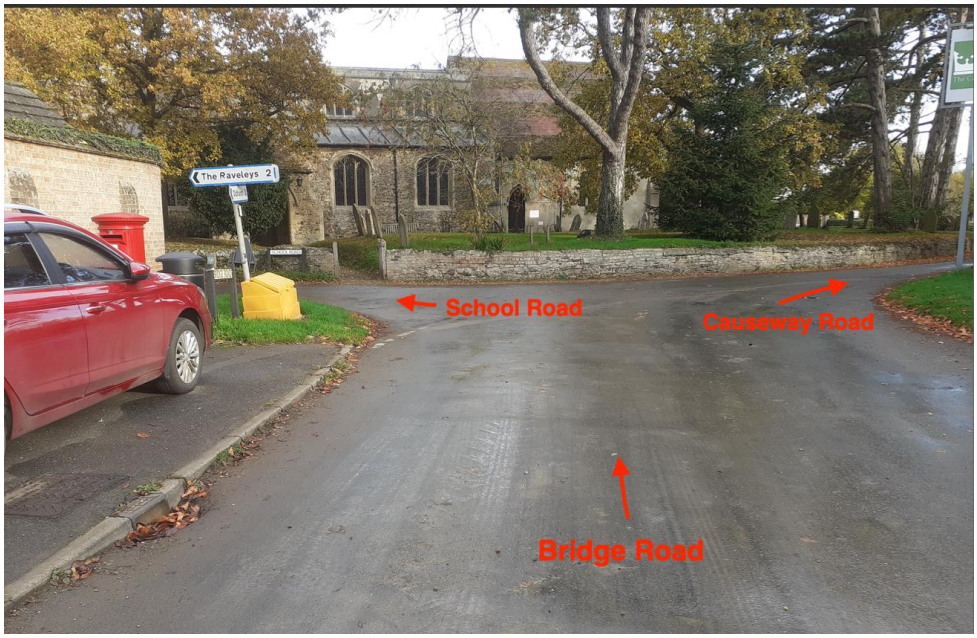


Figure 2: T-Junction from Bridge Road

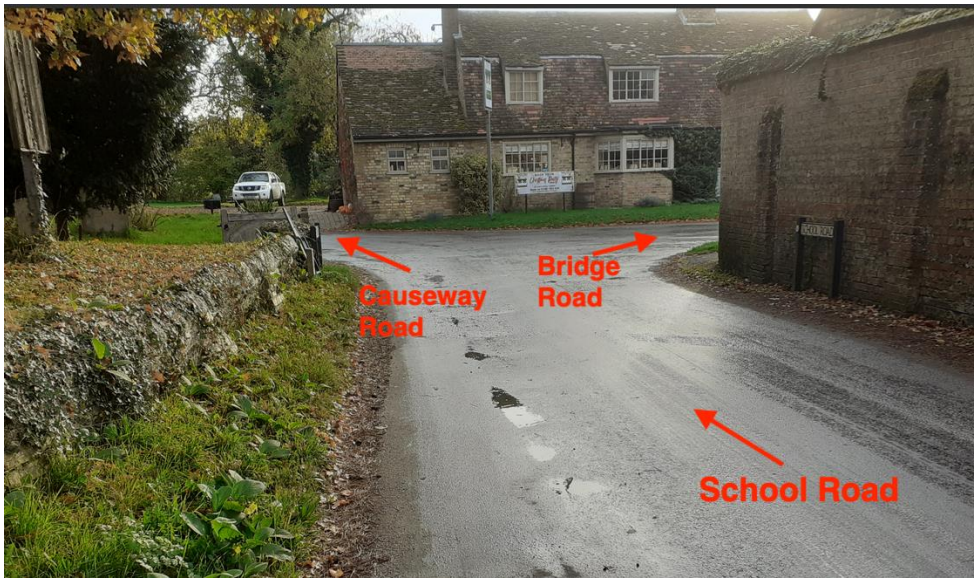


Figure 3: T-Junction from School Road

Current Road Issues

The village has very few pavements and no street lighting, with most pedestrian traffic on the road. Vulnerable pedestrians include residents from Rose Cottage Care Home. The T-junction in the centre of the village only has pavement on the northwest side of Bridge Road. With restricted visibility for pedestrians and vehicles, and no pavement, this intersection is a particular safety concern.

Broughton Lane and Bridge Road join the northbound A141 carriageway. With current traffic volumes, wait times to join northbound during peak traffic times are significant. Joining southbound i.e., turning right onto the A141, is only possible during off-peak times and, even then, is considered dangerous by some.

During peak hours we see significant rat-run traffic through the village, with traffic diverting from the A141 and cutting through Broughton and Kings Ripton to join the Huntingdon northern bypass near Sapley Park.

Congestion on the A141 north of the B1090 Wyton roundabout during peak times, or as a result of accident, results in heavier flows of traffic through the village, including some HGVs.

The Parish Council has purchased 2 Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) to try and discourage speeding. Data captured by the SIDs has shown peak speeds of up to 50 mph on all 3 roads through the village within the 30mph speed restriction area. Speeding is not restricted to rat-run traffic; however, this does highlight the level of risk to other road users, including pedestrians on the road.

Causeway Road, and to a lesser degree Bridge Road, floods regularly to depths that leave cars stranded and, with high velocities, pose a risk to life. Broughton Flood Action group reports the flooding of low-lying Causeway and Bridge Roads to the Police a number of times each year who close the roads if resources allow, to prevent further incidents.



Figure 4: Photos of Causeway Road during past flood events.

Likely Impacts from the A141 and St Ives Improvement Package

Considering the impacts from the three themes developed in the package:

Theme A: Active Travel

- The closest proposed cycling / walking route to Broughton is route G. This does not extend to, or beyond, Kings Ripton so provides no benefit for Broughton.

Theme B: Public Transport

- The proposed Park &Ride 2 may have some benefit for Broughton, although it is sufficiently far from Broughton that most potential users from the village would be likely to continue their car journey on to a St Ives or Huntingdon destination
- The proposed CGB2 bus route bypasses local villages so, although close to Broughton, provides no benefit to the village.

Theme C: Road

From the 17th October 2024 consultation webinar it appears that the A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme has given little, if any, consideration to A141 traffic north of the Wyton (A141 B1090 intersection) roundabout or the consequential impact on nearby villages such as Broughton or Kings Ripton. This question was posted in advance of the webinar and the scope of the study, as presented in the webinar, focussed on east-west traffic movements between St Ives and Huntingdon.

The proposed A141 bypass may improve east-west traffic flow but, in doing so, could further increase wait times at the Wyton roundabout for north-south traffic. This may encourage more traffic to route through Broughton towards Sapley to avoid the congestion.

The proposed A141 bypass should move traffic away from the A141 / A1123 Hartford roundabout, but at the cost of further increasing the risk of congestion at the Wyton roundabout.

The bypass, therefore, may have the effect of increasing delays for A141 traffic north of the Wyton roundabout and significantly increasing rat-run traffic through Broughton. Proposed Local Plan developments – including a proposed 4,500 dwellings on the Hungary Hall Farm site between the A141 and Broughton - would then further increase the problem.

Traffic modelling for the A141 and St Ives Improvement Package does not appear to have addressed northbound traffic on the A141 or rat-run traffic through nearby villages.

Overall, therefore, we consider that the A141 and St Ives Improvement Package is likely to increase road traffic through the village. Given the size of the roads, the visibility issues in the centre of the village and the necessary use of roads by pedestrians, we believe that this will result in road safety issues and also negatively impact the conservation area in the village.

We request that the A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme not proceed further until the team has considered the consequential effects which the scheme could have on local villages, including Broughton.

Potential Further Impacts from Proposed Developments in the Local Plan Update

The proposed updates to Huntingdonshire District Council's Local Plan include large-scale developments on both sides of the A141 north of the Wyton roundabout. The Hungary Hall site is of particular concern to Broughton since traffic from the 4,500 proposed new homes is likely to have ready access to Bridge Road as an alternative to the B1090 or A141.

The A141 and St Ives Improvement study, as stated in the webinar, does not consider within its present scope the additional traffic A141 and local traffic which would result from developments proposed in the Local Plan update for the Wyton-on-the-Hill area. The Hungary Hall development, sited on the Broughton-side of A141 would be particularly likely to generate large volumes of traffic through the village.

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We request that the A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme team consider the future developments being considered by Huntingdonshire District Council. These developments are likely to add significantly to the volume of traffic using the A141 and the proposed bypass and are likely to have a detrimental effect on traffic through local villages, including Broughton.

Conclusions and recommendations

In conclusion, we believe that the current scope of the A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme does not adequately consider existing traffic on the A141 north of the Wyton roundabout. It also does not consider the effects of the developments proposed in the Local Plan update. Rat-run traffic through local villages also does not appear to have been considered.

As a result, the A141 and St Ives Improvements Package could fail to deliver the anticipated benefits and may also lead to hazardous conditions in nearby villages, including Broughton. We request that the A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme not proceed further until the team has considered the consequential effects which the scheme, in combination with the possible developments identified in the Local Plan update could have on local villages, including Broughton.

We ask that the following recommendations be considered:

- Assess and model rat-run traffic through nearby villages, including Broughton. This modelling should include seasonal factors such as movements of large farm vehicles (the village has a number of working farms) as well as periodic deep flooding of Causeway and Bridge Roads
- Consider improvements to the A141 north of the Wyton roundabout, to avoid degrading journey times on this section of the road and increased rat-run traffic
- Co-ordinate with Huntingdonshire District Council's Local Plan update team to ensure that traffic from possible developments in this area has been considered
- Co-ordinate with the Local Plan update team to ensure that improvements are phased correctly to increase traffic capacity when needed; both for construction traffic and residential traffic arising from the proposed new developments
- Consider other measures to discourage rat-run traffic through local villages e.g. changes to A141 junctions with local roads North of the Wyton roundabout

Yours sincerely,



Michael O'Donovan
Chair of Broughton Parish Council

clerk@broughtoncambspc.org.uk

Copies to: Broughton Parish Council