

## STATEMENT FROM STEVENAGE ROAD PETITION GROUP 16 OCTOBER 2017

A petition about the traffic on Stevenage Road was submitted to NHDC by the deadline for the Local Plan on 30 November 2016 suggesting the problems that exist viz Excessive levels of air pollution

Very great noise for residents

Congestion causing hazards

Traffic does not stay within the speed limit (New signs simply tell us this) and is dangerous

Opportunist crimes

These problems are deteriorating and will be made worse by building of approx 17000 houses in the N Herts area if nothing is done to improve the situation.

The infrastructure of the whole of the NHerts area could be improved by a bypass as at present Stevenage Road is a through road for traffic going to Lister Hospital, Stevenage and in the opposite direction traffic for Luton Airport and Bedford Industrial Estate.

There is much strong feeling that matters must be improved.

The original proposal for a bypass was suggested by NHDC earlier than 2000 and a lot of local residents from Hitchin and Stevenage and further afield felt that it should be built as an extension to the Wymondley Bypass south of Hitchin joining the A602 outside of Hitchin and perhaps the A600 to Bedford. On submission of the petition to HCC at the end of June 2017 a letter was received ref 201012870750 from the Highways Support Team which was stated that it must remain "a long term aspiration" as work was being proposed for the A1(M) Corridor growth and transport.

In the light of this we would like consideration that the bypass gets considered within this too. There were suggestions that a spur be taken off the A1(M) perhaps near Corey's Mill and a major road run through more open country avoiding villages South of Hitchin joining the A602 to Luton further from Hitchin and perhaps the A600 to Bedford as well.

In the meanwhile a toll could be put in place for through traffic but not residents.

We feel NHDC HCC and other councils must address this issue soon for present and future generations in North Herts and supply ideas.

Thank you for your consideration of this statements.

Stevenage Road Petition Group