

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** BURT, Alistair <alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 July 2016 13:16  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet  
**Subject:** RE: A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet - Invitation to Members Forum

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear [REDACTED]

Many thanks for this at the start of the month – we had responded to the previous request to be involved – Alistair had said yes. This follow up email unfortunately was eaten by the Clutter system on our email and has only just been found.

So, he is keen to be involved as our first response indicated, so do please keep us informed going forward.

Kind regards  
Eve Burt

Eve Burt | Office Manager | Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP | Member of Parliament for NE Bedfordshire  
Email: burte@parliament.uk | +44 (0)20 7219 8132 | +44 (0)7830 324777



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### ***Serving the people of North East Bedfordshire***

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 July 2016 09:57  
**To:** BURT, Alistair <alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk>  
**Cc:** [a428blackcattocaxtongibbet@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:a428blackcattocaxtongibbet@highwaysengland.co.uk)  
**Subject:** A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet - Invitation to Members Forum

Dear Mr Burt,

We have recently been in touch regarding the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme, inviting you to a newly established Members forum (please find attached invitation). We have not yet received confirmation from yourself as to whether you would be interested in attending. We have since agreed on a date and venue for the first meeting (see below) and we would be delighted if you wanted to take part in the forum.

For information, we intend to hold the first forum on Friday 22 July, at St Neots Priory Centre. This would be a morning session, times to be confirmed shortly with agenda.

We would be grateful if you could confirm whether you are interested in attending this meeting. So that the group remains at a size where discussions are practical, the intention is to have one representative per constituency / organisation in attendance. However if you feel that this would not allow your organisation to be fully represented we would be happy to discuss the need for additional representation. Please do let us know as soon as possible if you would like to have additional representatives so that we can confirm numbers.

Once we have confirmed numbers, we will issue further detail on agenda for the first meeting. Please do feel free to get in touch in the meantime if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Jacobs | Senior Communications and Engagement Consultant | Sustainable Solutions

[REDACTED]  
20 St Thomas Street, London, SE1 9RS | [www.jacobs.com](http://www.jacobs.com)

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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 July 2016 09:57  
**To:** BURT, Alistair <[alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk)>  
**Cc:** [a428blackcattocaxtongibbet@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:a428blackcattocaxtongibbet@highwaysengland.co.uk)  
**Subject:** A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet - Invitation to Members Forum

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Once we have confirmed numbers, we will issue further detail on agenda for the first meeting. Please do feel free to get in touch in the meantime if you have any queries.

Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Jacobs | Senior Communications and Engagement Consultant | Sustainable Solutions  
[REDACTED]  
20 St Thomas Street, London, SE1 9HS | [www.jacobs.com](http://www.jacobs.com)

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Some of my constituents have been in touch about a letter they have received from [REDACTED] of Highways England about arranging access to their land for a walkover survey for the A428 improvements. This has been unsettling for them, and I understand a Highways England representative has been to a parish council meeting to allay fears. I would really appreciate being kept in the loop on this matter, and would be grateful if any future communication to constituents like this could be copied to me [alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk).

I am keen to ensure that communication between the two major road projects affecting the north of my constituency is good, and I would like to arrange a meeting between Central Bedfordshire Councillor [REDACTED], [REDACTED] a Department of Transport representative from the A1 study, a Highways England representative from the A428 programme, and myself. I would be very grateful if you could let me know who you think is in the best position in HE to attend. I would not plan to invite parish council representatives at this time.

Thank you very much

Kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Dictated by Alistair

Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Assistant Project Manager**  
**Regional Investment Programme (South & East)**  
Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

[REDACTED]

Web: <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

Our ref: CRS 742,457  
Your ref:

Sir Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

13 September 2016

Dear Sir Alistair Burt

Thank you for your email of 12 September on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] who has raised concerns about litter along the A1 in Bedfordshire. I am sorry that his visitors had cause to comment on the amount of visible litter.

We share [REDACTED] concerns that litter on our roads is unsightly and an environmental hazard. It is particularly frustrating because if litter was appropriately disposed of in the first place, the money we spend collecting it could be used for improvement schemes to help save lives or to benefit economic growth.

It may be helpful if I explain that under the Environmental Protection Act 1980 (EPA), we are responsible for the management of litter on all England's motorways and on some trunk roads. Local district and borough councils are responsible for litter on all other roads, including the A1 in Bedfordshire.

We are making progress to enhance collaborative working with these local authorities on clearing the network. This involves partnership agreements, much more active communication to combine maintenance activities and litter collections and the sharing of resources. Over time, we hope to fully establish these new working practices and assess their effectiveness and share best practice. As part of this initiative, we last wrote to all district and borough authorities responsible for clearing litter from the A1 reminding them of their obligations under the EPA on 3 February but we do plan to issue a further reminder later this year.

We have also started to write to relevant district and borough authorities following our weekly safety inspections of the strategic road network, to tell them what lengths require attention and also to thank them when we are able to record that litter picking has improved its appearance.

This approach to litter on our network is guided by our litter strategy. This strategy was developed to outline strategic goals and initiatives to support the effective management of litter and set a vision of a network predominantly free from litter.

Our litter strategy is available to view on our website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-agency-litter-strategy>.

In addition to our usual litter clearance activities, we are working with various bodies and anti-litter organisations, including Keep Britain Tidy to make littering socially unacceptable.

Influencing this change in littering behaviour will take time but by raising awareness through national and regional anti-litter campaigns, as well as supporting our local authority partners with local initiatives, we are actively working towards a safer, cleaner and tidier network.

I hope I have been able to assure you and [REDACTED] that we take the cleanliness of the A1 as part of the wider strategic road network very seriously. If [REDACTED] would like more information about how we engage with local and district borough councils to manage litter on the A1, he is welcome to contact our service delivery manager, [REDACTED] at the above address, by email at [REDACTED] or by telephone on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: [martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk)

27

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]

Sent: 12 September 2016 16:36

To: Fellows, Martin

Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Fellows

I have been contacted by my above mentioned constituent. [REDACTED] is perturbed by the litter along the A1 in Bedfordshire, particularly so since he has hosted a delegation of foreign visitors who commented on the amount of litter visible.

I would be very grateful for more information from you that I might pass to my constituent to reassure him.

Thank you and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: A1 Stakeholder Group  
**Date:** 13 July 2017 15:59:07

---

Dear Mr Burt MP,

Thank you for your e-mail expressing Staploe Parish Council's interest in having an additional representative on the Stakeholder Group for the A1 East of England Strategic Study.

Following the publication of the Stage 3 report

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a1-east-of-england-strategic-study-stage-3-report> on 28 November, further work has now commenced, taking account of local plans on housing and the National Infrastructure Commission's work on the Oxford to Cambridge arc.

We are currently conducting further analysis to fully understand the potential benefits of the proposals identified in the Stage 3 report. We expect this work to complete by the end of 2017. We will of course publish any outcomes of the study on the gov.uk website and will arrange Stakeholder Reference Group meetings to allow stakeholders to discuss the work collectively and individually with us and the Department for Transport.

There are a large number of parish and town councils along this length of the A1 and it is considered that at this early stage of the work, which is to provide an initial appraisal of potential improvement options to the A1 rather than an examination of potential routes, one representative from Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils (BATPC) is appropriate. To ensure a fair representation of discussions at the stakeholder events, we consider it unfair to allow more than one representative from each organisation to attend.

I hope you are able to consider and understand our position to be fair and equal to all our stakeholders.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

Web: <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

GTN: [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 29 June 2017 15:00  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** A1 Stakeholder Group

Dear [REDACTED],

I have been contacted by [REDACTED], clerk to Staploe Parish Council. The council is interested in having a second representative on the A1 stakeholder reference group, and would like to suggest [REDACTED], who is a parish councillor and a representative on the committee of the Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils. Staploe could be directly affected in any changes to the A1 in my constituency so they would like to have a more direct chain of communication into the project team.

Are you able to accommodate this request?

Many thanks

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Our ref: CRS 753,170  
Your ref:

Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford  
MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

18 July 2017

Dear Mr Burt

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 3 July to Catherine Brookes about a previous request from your constituent, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] requesting the speed limit on the A1 near his property be reduced to 50mph. Catherine has transferred to another post within Highways England and I have taken over her responsibilities as regional director for operations in the East of England.

I acknowledge [REDACTED] concerns and can assure you that as part of our safety improvement programme we closely monitor all personal injury accidents and safety related incidents that occur on our network. Our service providers also provide inspection reports and other relevant information which assist us to identify accident 'hot spots' or contributory factors that may require intervention. Since Catherine last wrote to you there has not been any new accident data or other evidence to suggest that the current 60 mph speed limit needs to be reduced.

We take the safety of all road users very seriously and are fully committed to doing all we can to improve safety on our network. We will continue to review the situation and if new evidence arises to show that the current speed limit is inappropriate we will take action as necessary.

If [REDACTED] would like any more information, he is welcome to contact our planning and development manager, [REDACTED] can write to [REDACTED] at the above address, by email at [REDACTED] or by telephone on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations East  
Email: martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 July 2017 16:59  
**To:** Brookes, Catherine  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Ms Brookes,

We corresponded in April 2016 about the speed of traffic on the A1 heading north from Stotfold towards Biggleswade South. My constituent [REDACTED] lives just off the A1 and reports lots of near-misses.

He is still interested in a reduction in the speed limit on this stretch of the highway. Has Highways England done any further monitoring on this section of road since we last corresponded? Has HE's view changed on the potential for reduction of speed limit on this stretch?

I would be very glad to receive an update from you.

Many thanks and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 26 July 2017 15:09:10

---

Dear Mr Burt

Thank you for your e-mail requesting someone to meet [REDACTED] about roads/traffic in and around Sandy. I am meeting [REDACTED] at the SRG19 Road Safety Group meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

**Tel:** [REDACTED]

**Web:** <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

**GTN:** [REDACTED]

---

**Sent:** 17 July 2017 15:35

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

I have been contacted by my above-mentioned constituent who runs a group called the SG19 Road Safety Group.

[REDACTED] has a particular interest in roads/traffic in and around Sandy and is quite knowledgeable on the issues. Is there someone who could meet with him and a representative from Sandy Town Council together and discuss some of their concerns – or is there some way for them to contribute to your plans?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Dictated by Alistair  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Our ref:  
Your ref:

Sir Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

15 September 2017

Dear Sir Alistair Burt

**NOTIFICATION OF START OF WORKS  
STRATEGIC ROAD NETWORK MAINTENANCE IN BEDFORDSHIRE,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE**

I am writing to inform you that we have awarded a £12million contract to VolkerFitzpatrick to carry out a number of maintenance schemes at various locations along the M1, A1(M), A1, A5, A14, A421 and A428 in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire. I attach at Annex A, a list of schemes that will be delivered as part of this contract.

Work starts on 26 September with the resurfacing of the A1 Little Barford southbound exit slip road. Work will be carried out over two nights between 9pm and 6am. Traffic will be diverted to the next junction where it will be directed to turn round and come back on the opposite carriageway.

Work will then continue from 29 September with the resurfacing of the A14 junction 27 entry slip road at Fenstanton. Again, work will be carried out overnight between 9am and 6am and traffic will be diverted via junction 26 whilst the slip road is closed.

The remainder of the programme will be delivered over the coming months with all work expected to be complete by April 2018. More detailed information will be released through our weekly press bulletin.

Where our work directly affects local residents, businesses and other stakeholders, we will write and let them know how it will impact them. Clearly signed diversion routes will be used when we need to close routes but we will maintain access for local residents and where appropriate, we will escort them through the work area.

All work is dependent on weather conditions.

Please feel free to contact me if you would like any more information about any aspect of our work listed in the attached annex.

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: [martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk)

## **Annex A - Scheme Programme List**

### **M1**

- Junction 10 (Luton) to junction 13 (Bedford) northbound and southbound carriageway repairs
- Newport Pagnell carriageway repairs
- Toddington services carriageway repairs to service roads
- Junction 12 (Toddington) traffic signal controller upgrade
- River Ouzel underbridge repairs, deck waterproofing and resurfacing
- Various technology equipment electrical repairs
- Junction 6a (M25) to junction 12 (Toddington) upgrading of street lighting to LEDs

### **A1(M)**

- Junction 6 (Welwyn) to junction 7 (Stevenage South) central reservation drainage repairs
- Junction 6 (Welwyn) traffic signal controller upgrade
- Junction 8 (Stevenage North) to junction 9 (Letchworth) northbound and southbound road marking renewal
- Junction 7 (Stevenage South) to junction 8 (Stevenage North) northbound and southbound carriageway repairs
- Norton Road and Baldock Lane overbridges, Baldock deck waterproofing, resurfacing and bearing repairs
- Junction 8 (Stevenage North) to junction 10 (Baldock) upgrading of street lighting to LEDs
- Various electrical repairs and maintenance to technology equipment

## A1

- Langford/Edworth junction to A1(M) junction 10 (Baldock) northbound and southbound resurfacing
- Little Barford southbound exit slip road resurfacing
- Biggleswade to A428 northbound and southbound road marking renewal
- Wyboston junction flyover concrete repairs and parapet replacement
- Southoe renewal of weather information equipment
- Biggleswade northern roundabout resurfacing
- Southoe to Buckden landscape improvements
- St Neots Road, Sandy junction warning sign improvements
- Tempsford bends northbound signing improvements
- Various electrical repairs and maintenance to technology equipment

## A5

- Heath & Reach junction upgrading of street lighting to LED
- Birchs Close, Hockliffe upgrading of pedestrian crossing traffic signals to LED
- Friars Wash renewal of weather information equipment
- Hockliffe northbound replacement of vehicle activated sign
- Milton Keynes northbound improvement to layby advance signing
- Tebworth Turn to Hockcliffe road marking renewal
- Hockliffe upgrading of traffic signals to LED

### **A14**

- Junction 27 (Fenstanton) eastbound entry slip road resurfacing
- Junction 23 (Hinchingbrooke, Huntingdon) expansion joint replacement and bridge beam repainting

### **A421**

- Elstow junction street lighting repairs
- Route treatment road marking and traffic sign improvements and renewals
- Salford Road junction improvements
- Junction with M1 (junction 13) road marking and surfacing renewals

### **A428**

- St Neots to Caxton Gibbet route treatment - road marking and traffic sign improvements and renewals



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: A1 project  
**Date:** 24 October 2017 08:04:26

---

[REDACTED]  
Apologies for the delay in responding.  
The further analysis is planned for completion by the end of 2017.  
Regards

[REDACTED]  
Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

**Tel:** [REDACTED]

**Web:** <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

**GTN:** [REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** 03 October 2017 10:42

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** A1 project

Hello [REDACTED]

Is there any update on the A1 project for Alistair? Are you still expecting the benefit analysis to be ready by the end of 2017?

Thank you

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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Your ref:

Sir Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

26 October 2017

Dear Sir Alistair Burt

### **A1 - DIVERSION ROUTE**

Thank you for your email of 26 October on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED]. I am sorry to learn of [REDACTED] concerns about HGVs using the village road whilst we carry out road marking work on the nearby A1 between Sandy and the A1(M) junction 10.

Work started on 24 October to refresh road markings and will be completed by the end of this week, subject to weather conditions. We have already completed similar work on the northbound carriageway.

We have already written to [REDACTED] explaining that the official diversion route, agreed with the local authority, is via the A603, the A6 and the A507. Within this closure there is additional signing for local drivers but all strategic traffic is directed via the official diversion. Therefore, any HGV traffic using the village road through Upper Caldecote is doing so independently of the signed diversion route.

Our diversion routes are planned and agreed with local highway authorities so that they can accommodate all vehicle types. Sometimes as a result, they can be quite lengthy. Unfortunately, some drivers will find alternative, less suitable routes. Regrettably, there is little we can do about this and I note [REDACTED] has asked the police to enforce restrictions through Upper Caldecote.

We do have further work planned in the area and we will consider, where appropriate, erecting signing advising drivers to ignore their satnavs and follow our diversions as signed.

I hope this is helpful but if [REDACTED] would like more information about the work we've been doing on the A1 or its diversion, he's welcome to contact the project sponsor, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] can write to [REDACTED] at the above address, telephone him on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: [martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** 26 October 2017 10:13

**To:** Fellows, Martin

**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Fellows,

I have been contacted by my above-mentioned constituent who is concerned that the diversion for the A1 closures is running through Upper Caldecote. This means HGVs are using the village road, which he considers very unsafe.

What can you tell me about this? How are diversion routes decided? I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]

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House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

9 November 2017

Dear Mr Burt

Thank you for your email of 30 October on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] about delays on the A1, particularly between Baldock and the Black Cat roundabout.

Together with the Department for Transport, we have completed an initial assessment of the A1 between junctions 1 and 17 to assess possible intervention measures to improve this section of the A1. The outcome of this part of the study can be found online at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a1-east-of-england-strategic-study-stage-3-report>.

We've now moved to the next phase of the study by focussing on the middle section, between junction 10 at Baldock and junction 14, north of Buckden, exploring whether there is a stronger case for upgrading this section of route than there is to upgrade the route in its entirety.

This phase of the study is expected to be complete towards the end of 2017 and will enable any strongly performing options to be considered for inclusion in the next roads investment period (2020-2025). The findings of this phase of the study will be published on the Department for Transport website.

I appreciate [REDACTED] desire for more rapid improvements at the Black Cat Roundabout. Work to improve the A428 to Caxton Gibbet is included in the current investment period with construction expected to start in 2020 and will include improvements to the Black Cat Roundabout. It is not possible to deliver the sort of temporary flyover that [REDACTED] describes in a shorter timescale, however various flyover designs are being considered as part of the improvement scheme.

I hope my reply is helpful. However if [REDACTED] would like more information, he is welcome to contact our project sponsor, [REDACTED] at the above address, by email at [REDACTED] or by telephone on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: [martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk)

[REDACTED]

---

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

**Sent:** 30 October 2017 16:20  
**To:** Fellows, Martin  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Fellows,

I have been contacted by my above-mentioned constituent, who is a frequent A1 user, about delays on this road especially on the section between Baldock and Black Cat.

I have given him information on the feasibility study of the A1 upgrade which I understand from [REDACTED] will be complete by year end, and the Black Cat modifications which will have commenced by March 2020.

However, [REDACTED] has made some subsequent comments:

“the possibilities for J10-J14 section of the A1.... the timescale is not clear. Could this be explained?”

Also a 3-5 year delay in sorting out the Black Cat problem is just too bad. A simple, even temporary, single lane flyover (either from the southbound A1 to the A428, or from the northbound A1 to the A1) would solve this specific problem in the immediate future and allow better traffic flow. It is the crossing traffic A1 to A428 that slows down traffic lights for the opposite flow on the A1 north.”

I do appreciate that road infrastructure is harder to improve than [REDACTED] optimism suggests, but I would appreciate a written response for [REDACTED]

I am very grateful,

Kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]

*Serving the people of North East Bedfordshire*

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Our ref: CRS 756,549  
Your ref:

Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

13 November 2017

Dear Mr Burt

Thank you for your email of 27 October on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] regarding the recent closure of the A1 from the A507 to Biggleswade.

We closed the A1 whilst we renewed road markings and replaced road studs at various locations between Biggleswade and Wyboston over a distance of approximately 10 miles. I hope [REDACTED] has now had an opportunity to observe the improvement, particularly when driving at night.

Work started on 16 October, was carried out overnight between 9pm and 6am when traffic flows were at their lowest, causing the least disruption to drivers. All work was completed by 2 November, a week earlier than scheduled.

Whilst the A1 was closed, a fully signed diversion route was in place. We use diversion routes suitable for all traffic types and regrettably, this can sometimes mean diversions are lengthy, particularly in rural areas. I appreciate that drivers with local knowledge may find alternative routes but I hope you will understand we are not able to sign numerous diversions as this would cause confusion to drivers. I am sorry [REDACTED] journeys into Biggleswade were slightly longer as a result.

I hope my reply is helpful. If [REDACTED] would like more information about the work we've just completed, he is welcome to contact the project sponsor, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] can write to [REDACTED] at the above address, by email at [REDACTED] or telephone him on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk

**To:** Fellows, Martin

**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Fellows,

I have been contacted by my above-mentioned constituent expressing his concerns about the closure of the A1 from the A507 to Biggleswade South at night. "A detour is in place that puts an additional 4 miles journey for anyone living in Biggleswade. Despite this road closure, there is no sign of any road maintenance having been carried out."

I would be grateful if you could address my constituent's concerns.

Many thanks and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 28 November 2017 09:00  
**To:** 'alastair.burt.mp@parliament.uk'  
**Cc:** A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet; Corbett, Tom (WB)  
**Subject:** Highways England - Update on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme

Dear Alistair,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the progress Highways England is making as we develop the A428 Black Cat roundabout to Caxton Gibbet scheme.

As you will be aware, from 6 March to 23 April 2017, we consulted on proposals to provide a dual carriageway on the A428 between Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet and to improve the Black Cat roundabout. This consultation was to seek views on a range of route and junction options at an early stage of scheme development.

Responses to the consultation raised a number of comments about the scheme options proposed and how they relate to the on-going A1 East of England Strategic Study.

The aim of the strategic study is to consider whether there is a case for bringing consistency to the southern section of the route, from the junction with the M25 in the south to Peterborough in the north. In particular, it will look at the case for improving the non-motorway section linking the two parts of the A1(M) to motorway standard. The study will then consider the options for improving the road network which can support growth, this could include changing the alignment of the road, assessing ways to reduce the environmental impact of the existing route and the benefits to local communities.

We recognise the need to better understand the direction and incorporate potential changes from the A1 East of England Strategic Study. This will require further analysis to fully understand the implications for the A428 scheme. This means that the preferred route announcement has not been possible in autumn 2017. We recognise that this delay may be frustrating, however it is important that the scheme meets the long term needs of local communities and road users throughout the region and we will continue to develop the scheme by carrying out technical assessments and surveys.

We will ensure that we keep you updated and share as much detail as possible as we progress the scheme. Our engagement with all affected landowners and stakeholders is ongoing and we will hold a further statutory consultation following the announcement of the preferred route. This will give you and your constituents another opportunity to share your views and continue to help shape the scheme.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

**Programme Leader**

Regional Investment Programme (East)

Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

Web; <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

Our ref: CRS 757,681  
Your ref:

Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

3 January 2018

Dear Mr Burt

### A1 Closures

Thank you for your email of 15 December on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] regarding closure of the A1 between Langford and Baldock. [REDACTED] asks why work being carried out under this closure wasn't done during October when the A1 was closed at that time.

The current closure is for the essential resurfacing of the A1 between Langford and Baldock. We expect this work to be completed by the end of the month, subject to weather conditions. The earlier work, as you will recall from my letter of 13 November, was for road marking and road stud replacement between Biggleswade and Wyboston.

I appreciate the inconvenience closures of the A1 cause when we need to carry out maintenance and improvement work. We always look at opportunities to combine work to minimise disruption to drivers and keep closures to a minimum. I hope you and [REDACTED] will appreciate that in this case, combining the work would have meant an extensive length of the A1, including numerous junctions and accesses, being closed between Baldock and the Black Cat Roundabout. Such a closure would have been impractical, requiring lengthy diversions.

I hope my reply reassures [REDACTED] that we carefully plan our work to minimise disruption. However, if [REDACTED] would like more information, he is welcome to contact the project sponsor [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] can write to [REDACTED] at the above address, by email at [REDACTED] or telephone him on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED] [Fellows, Martin](#)  
**Subject:** RE: HIGHWAYS ENGLAND RESPONSE - [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 15 December 2017 09:36:01

---

Dear Mr Fellows,

I have heard again from [REDACTED] who reports that the A1 has been closed again. He is curious about why the necessary works were not carried out at the same time to minimise disruption, and I would be very grateful to hear from you about that.

With thanks and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 13 November 2017 09:20  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** HIGHWAYS ENGLAND RESPONSE - [REDACTED],  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached reply from regional director, Martin Fellows.

Yours sincerely  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW  
Tel: [REDACTED]

Web: <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

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Get live traffic information at <http://www.trafficengland.com> or download our apps for free by going to the [iTunes store](#) or [Google Play store](#)

---

[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 27 October 2017 14:57

**To:** Fellows, Martin

**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Fellows,

I have been contacted by my above-mentioned constituent expressing his concerns about the closure of the A1 from the A507 to Biggleswade South at night. "A detour is in place that puts an additional 4 miles journey for anyone living in Biggleswade. Despite this road closure, there is no sign of any road maintenance having been carried out."

I would be grateful if you could address my constituent's concerns.

Many thanks and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**Highways England Company Limited | General enquiries: 0300 123 5000**  
**|National Traffic Operations Centre, 3 Ridgeway, Quinton Business Park,**  
**Birmingham B32 1AF | [https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england)**  
**[england](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/highways-england) | [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk)**

Registered in England and Wales no 9346363 | Registered Office: Bridge House,

Our ref: CRS 757,911  
Your ref:

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

11 January 2018

Dear Mr Burt

### **Speeding concerns on London Road, Sandy**

Thank you for your email of 22 December 2017, on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] about speeding on London Road by drivers using it to bypass the A1 to reach the Sandy roundabout.

I am sorry to learn of [REDACTED] concerns. Enforcement of the 30mph speed limits along London Road is a matter for Bedfordshire Police. London Road is part of the local road network, therefore any traffic calming measures on here would need to be promoted by Central Bedfordshire Council.

You ask that we now consider the removal of "Sandy" as a destination from the advanced direction sign on the A1 just before the London Road turning. We will need the support of Central Bedfordshire Council before any signing changes are made. We therefore propose to discuss this at our next liaison meeting with Central Bedfordshire Council on 7 February. Changes to signing will be dependent on suitable funding being identified, value for money and other regional priorities.

I hope my reply is helpful however if [REDACTED] would like more information, he is welcome to contact our asset development team leader, [REDACTED] in writing at the above address, by email at [REDACTED] or by telephone on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk



[REDACTED]

---

**Sent:** 22 December 2017 09:21

**To:** Fellows, Martin

**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Fellows,

I have been contacted by my above-mentioned constituent who is concerned about speeding on London Road Sandy, off which Bickerdikes Gardens lies. [REDACTED] is very concerned that drivers heading south on the A1 use London Road to access the A1 Sandy roundabout faster, particularly at rush hour.

[REDACTED] says that about a year ago she did a drive around with a Highways England member of staff (called [REDACTED] who suggested that the Sandy exit shown on the road sign just before the London Road turning could be removed, thus encouraging all traffic to use the main roundabout further south. Of course this in itself will not stop those familiar with the local area using London Road if they wish, but it would seem a sensible suggestion, and I would be grateful if this could be considered.

I look forward to hearing from you about this.

Many thanks and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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## **Meeting with Alistair Burt MP**

Date: Monday 22 January 2018

Time & venue: 09.30-10.00, 5/13 GMH

### **Transport schemes in Bedfordshire and planning for housing**

Meeting organised further to a letter from Alistair Burt received November 2017 requesting information on the status of potential transport schemes in Bedfordshire. Alistair Burt advised of difficulties in planning for housing given uncertainty regarding potential transport schemes. The purpose of the meeting is to share the latest position on the following:

- A1 East of England Strategic Study
- A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet
- Oxford to Cambridge Expressway
- East West Rail

#### **A1 East of England Strategic Study**

PCF Stage 0 work for the A1 East of England Strategic Study is nearly complete. Initial work assessed interventions between the M25 and Peterborough. Follow-on work assessed a smaller bypass scheme between Lower Caldecote and Eaton Socon.

The study will conclude that there is a poor economic case for intervention but a strong strategic case, aligning to delivery of housing and a high-quality north-south strategic link. Initial analysis indicates that around half of the housing proposed in the Central Bedfordshire draft Local Plan can be accommodated without intervention on the A1.

There is ambition for transformational housing and employment growth in the Oxford to Cambridge corridor. If realised, this would likely improve the viability of an A1 scheme, albeit dependent on the location of growth and timescales for delivery.

A Board Investment and Commercial Committee (BICC) is scheduled for 19 March 2018 where a decision will be made on whether to progress the A1 study to the next stage of development.

#### **A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet**

The A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet scheme was committed as part of the first Roads Investment Strategy (RIS 1).

The route will intersect the A1 and the scheme proposes a grade separated junction. A decision on the form and location of this junction was delayed pending the outcome of the A1 East of England Strategic Study. It is most likely that Highways England will progress the design of the junction at its current location at Black Cat Roundabout, as it will be required to facilitate development in the area well before any potential improvement scheme on the A1 is delivered. The required scale of the junction (two or three tiers) is being decided.

Highways England have consulted on options and engagement with affected landowners and stakeholders is ongoing. Next steps involve a preferred route announcement and a further opportunity for the public to comment on the developed plans.

### **Oxford to Cambridge Expressway**

At Autumn Budget 2017, the Chancellor committed to delivering the “Missing Link” between Oxford and Milton Keynes by 2030, with construction commencing before 2025. This forms part of the wider Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, delivering a high quality link between the M4 and the M11. A decision on a preferred corridor will be made by summer 2018, followed by a public consultation on route selection within the corridor indicatively planned for Autumn 2019.

There are significant housing and employment growth ambitions for the corridor. DfT is working closely with HCLG and the Cities and Local Growth Unit to understand how these growth ambitions can be realised.

### **East West Rail**

The western section of East West Rail linking Oxford, Milton Keynes and Bedford is a committed scheme that will be complete by 2024. A new East West Rail Company is being established to accelerate delivery of the central section between Bedford and Cambridge, aiming for completion by the mid-2020s. The corridor of the central section has been confirmed as running via Sandy, with the exact alignment of the railway, including the location of the railway station at Sandy, expected to be confirmed later in 2018.

*Annex I – Biography,* [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] to add: 'Include a photo of the person/lead person and a very short biog'

Our ref: CRS 758,276  
Your ref:

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

22 January 2018

Dear Mr Burt

### **A1(M) junctions 7 – 8 Congestion**

Thank you for your email of 9 January on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] about traffic flow issues through junctions 7 and 8 of the A1(M).

I acknowledge that this length of the A1(M) suffers from congestion and impacts road user journeys, including [REDACTED]. The main issue is the lack of capacity between Welwyn and Stevenage.

We aim to address this through the development of a scheme to convert the A1(M) between junction 6 at Welwyn and junction 8 at Stevenage to smart motorway.

Smart motorways aim to reduce congestion and delays, improve journey time reliability and support economic growth. They maintain a high standard of safety through the use of mandatory variable speed limits as well as using the hard shoulder as an additional traffic lane.

Construction is currently expected to start by 2020. Further information and updates on the progress of this scheme can be found on our website at: <http://roads.highways.gov.uk/projects/a1m-junction-6-to-junction-8-smart-motorway/>.

Schemes like this are being funded through the government's Road Investment Strategy (RIS) and not directly through the road fund licence as [REDACTED] suggests. Housing developers may be asked to fund improvements at specific locations where traffic from their developments are likely to have the biggest impact, eg, at a junction. However, this is less likely for large-scale improvements of this type.

The first RIS was announced in December 2014 to cover investment in England's motorways and major roads between 2015 and 2020. It outlined a multi-year investment plan including over 100 major schemes funded by £15.2 billion of public money. This is part of a radical transformation of how we run our major roads. These reforms are expected to save the taxpayer at least £2.6 billion over the next ten years.

We will be able to plan ahead and invest in skills and equipment, speeding up essential work and driving down costs.

A second RIS is being developed so that work on delivering long-term improvements to our roads can continue seamlessly beyond 2020.

If [REDACTED] would like more information, she is welcome to contact the asset development team leader, [REDACTED]. He can be contacted by email at [REDACTED] or by telephone on [REDACTED] or by writing to him at the above address.

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

----- Original message -----

[REDACTED]  
Date: 09/01/2018 16:57 (GMT+00:00)  
To: "Fellows, Martin" <Martin.Fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk>  
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear Martin,

I have been contacted by my above mentioned constituent whose journey to work since she has moved takes her through junctions 7 and 8 of the A1(M) at peak times.

[REDACTED] is aware that changes will be made to that section of the A1 to improve the traffic flow, but does not understand why improvements have not been made before now, as she says the problems are well-known. She would like to know how projects of this kind are funded, and has suggested it is through individuals' road tax and through housing developer payments. I would be grateful if you could set out for me briefly what measures Highways England intends to this section, and how it will be funded.

I am grateful for your assistance with this.

Kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** "alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk"  
**Cc:** A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet  
**Subject:** FW: ACTION REQUIRED: A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements  
**Date:** 01 February 2018 18:04:21

---

Dear Mr Burt

Thank you for your email regarding an update on progress of the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements.

As you may be aware, Highways England has been asked to carry out a strategic study regarding the A1 in the East of England on behalf of the Department for Transport. The requirement for this study was set out in the first Road Investment Strategy (RIS), published in December 2014, which announced a programme of new strategic studies which explore options to address some of the large and complex challenges facing the strategic road network. We are expecting the outcome of the study to be published shortly which will enable us to carry out further analysis of regional planned developments and potential growth. This will ensure the A428 scheme meets people's needs locally and further afield. Until the analysis is complete, we cannot be certain of the revised date for the preferred route announcement. However, we shall ensure that when the process concludes further information will be made available to you, communicated directly to affected landowners, and published on our website.

Regarding [REDACTED] property, our analysis to date has indicated that this business is likely to be affected irrespective of which option is taken forward. I therefore see no reason to wait until the outcome of the Sensitivity testing before arranging a meeting with [REDACTED]. I do however wish to have this meeting when we can present them with more detailed information and be more certain of the degree of impact. I believe we will be in a position to do this in early March and have arranged a meeting directly with them on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March to discuss. I will follow this appointment up in writing with the [REDACTED] as they have requested.

Thank you again for getting in touch, I appreciate this is likely to be an anxious time for those affected. I will endeavour to ease this where possible.

Regards

[REDACTED] Project Manager  
Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW  
**Mobile:** [REDACTED]  
**Web:** <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

---

**From:** BURT, Alistair [<mailto:alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk>]  
**Sent:** 23 January 2018 09:58  
**To:** A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet  
**Subject:** RE: A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements

Dear [REDACTED]

I would be very grateful for an update on the works on the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet – when do you expect to announce a decision?

Of course I have a general interest in the works, but more specifically, I have also been contacted recently by my constituent [REDACTED] who is understandably extremely unsettled by the delay, living and working as he does right next to the Black

Cat roundabout.

What more can you tell me at this stage about plans? I would very much like to reassure [REDACTED] that the news will be available soon – am I able to do so?

I look forward to hearing from you as promptly as possible.

Thank you and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Dictated by Alistair

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---

**From:** A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet

[<mailto:a428blackcattocaxtongibbet@highwaysengland.co.uk>]

**Sent:** 28 November 2017 11:02

**Subject:** A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Improvements

**A428 BLACK CAT TO CAXTON GIBBET  
EXTENSION OF THE OPTIONS ASSESSMENT PERIOD**

From 6 March to 23 April 2017, we consulted on proposals to provide a dual carriageway on the A428 between Black Cat roundabout and Caxton Gibbet and to improve the Black Cat roundabout. This consultation was to seek your views on a range of route and junction options at an early stage of scheme development.

Since the consultation, we have continued to develop the scheme by incorporating your feedback and carrying out technical assessments and surveys. We have also recognised the need to better understand the direction and incorporate potential changes from the A1 East of England Strategic Study. This will require further analysis to fully understand the implications for the A428 scheme. This means that the preferred route announcement has not been possible in autumn 2017. We recognise that this delay may be frustrating, however it is important that the scheme meets the long term needs of local communities and road users throughout the region.

We will update you on our progress and next steps early in the new year and share as much detail as possible. Our engagement with all affected landowners and stakeholders is ongoing and we will hold a further formal consultation following the announcement of the preferred route. This will give you another opportunity to share your views and continue to help shape the scheme.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED] **Project Manager**

**A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Scheme**

Highways England | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW

Web: <http://www.highways.gov.uk>

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Our ref: CRS 759,526  
Your ref:

Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 4808

14 February 2018

Dear Mr Burt

### A1 Litter

Thank you for your email of 6 February on behalf of [REDACTED] about litter on the A1.

We share [REDACTED] concern that litter on our roads is unsightly as well as a risk to wildlife and the environment. It's a huge challenge to keep roads free of litter and debris and can take hours to clear each stretch of road. If people didn't drop litter in the first place it wouldn't need to be picked up. Lives are put at risk because of litter, as it can't be collected on many roads without closing lanes and installing and removing traffic management, which is hazardous for operatives.

Litter picking on the A1 through your constituency is the responsibility of Central Bedfordshire Council who carry out their litter picking duties twice a week. We have been made aware that they have recently had a problem with fly tipping in the laybys which includes the fly tippers filling up the bins with topsoil leaving no room left in them for rubbish. There is also an ongoing issue with lorry drivers who park up in these laybys overnight who appear to drop bags of rubbish from their cabs rather than using the bins (assuming the bins weren't already full).

I can confirm that we too have been experiencing some fly tipping activity in the Sandy area recently on land adjacent to the A1 where tree and shrub cuttings have been dumped. Unfortunately, when the tipped material is soil and vegetation, it is unlikely that the original source can be traced.

We will continue to grade the all-purpose trunk roads in our region on a monthly basis. Currently we are working to arrange notifications to be sent to the relevant local authorities when it becomes apparent that parts of the network that they are responsible for have fallen below the standard required in the DEFRA Code of Practice on Litter and Refuse.

I hope my reply is helpful and assures [REDACTED] that we take litter seriously. If [REDACTED] would like more information he is welcome to contact our service delivery manager, [REDACTED] who can be contacted by email at [REDACTED] by telephone on [REDACTED] or by writing to the above address.

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: [martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk)



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**Sent:** 06 February 2018 16:15  
**To:** Fellows, Martin  
**Subject:** FW: Rubbish on the A1 road

Dear Mr Fellows,

I wanted to simply pass on to you the feedback below I have received from a visitor to my constituency.

I hope this area can be tidied up,

Thank you and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
Dictated by Alistair



*Serving the people of North East Bedfordshire*

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**From:**   
**Sent:** 02 February 2018 13:39

To: BURT, Alistair <[alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:alistair.burt.mp@parliament.uk)>

Subject: Rubbish on the A1 road

Dear Mr Burt,

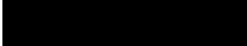
I see you are the MP for the Biggleswade area and I wanted to bring this to your attention.

I recently visited my daughter in Stamford (we live in Maidenhead) and stopped at a layby on the A1 just south of Biggleswade to stretch my stiff knee. I don't know how to put this more strongly but I was appalled at the condition of the layby in relation to rubbish; the one bin there was full to the top, various tyres, plastic bottles and general fast food crap spread over the kerb edge and into the under growth. I know drivers have to pee so I don't have a problem with that, but could this not be tidied up on a more regular basis?

This is a major highway for visitors (foreign?) going north and not a great advert for this part of the country. I got back in the car and said to my wife "I'm going to write to this area's MP about this".

I hope you will have some influence with the people that can remedy this.

Thank you,

  
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Our ref: CRS 757,911  
Your ref:

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Direct Line: 0300 470 4808

19 February 2018

Dear Mr Burt

### **Speeding concerns on London Road, Sandy**

I'm writing further to my letter of 11 January 2018 regarding your request to consider removal of "Sandy" as a destination from the advance direction sign on the A1. The request was considered at our liaison meeting with Central Bedfordshire Council on 7 February.

Central Bedfordshire Council will not support the removal of "Sandy" from the advanced direction sign but would support the alternative wording "local traffic". However, we don't believe such wording will provide the required level of information to drivers on the A1. After further consideration and discussion, the sign will remain as it is.

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: [martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk)

Our ref: CRS 763,349  
Your ref:

Highways England  
Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

20 June 2018

Dear Mr Burt

### **A1 road surface in Bedfordshire**

Thank you for your email of 5 June on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] about the road surface condition on the A1 in Bedfordshire.

I would like to assure you and [REDACTED] that safety of road users and our road workers is our top priority and I take your concerns about the A1 seriously.

We identify defects on the network including the A1, through weekly safety inspections undertaken by our service provider and taking account of reports from road users. These defects are categorised and we aim to repair or mitigate those which are safety critical within 24 hours.

Severe weather experienced during the winter accelerated the deterioration of the road surface. On average, 200 potholes a month appear and are filled during the winter on the strategic road network in the East. However, this year the number peaked at more than 1,500 a month. This increased level of potholes appearing on the network severely stretched the resources immediately available to deal with them.

In response we have significantly increased the capital maintenance spend on surfacing in a programme of works we called "network recovery" and mobilised additional resources to get the work delivered promptly. This programme is now substantially complete and I would expect road users to have seen an improvement in road condition. Whilst this has not addressed all potholes in the region, we have now regularised the situation to a normal level of service.

The network recovery included a significant number of pothole repairs and patching works on the A1(M) and A1 within your constituency, covering the section north from Baldock to Biggleswade, sandy and up to Hail Weston.

There remain 2 schemes on the A1 north of your constituency to be delivered as part of network recovery:

- A1 southbound from Buckden to Hail Weston – resurfacing works starting on 18 June
- A1 northbound from Hail Weston to Southoe – resurfacing works starting 25 June

If [REDACTED] would like more information about the A1, he is welcome to contact our routine delivery team leader, [REDACTED] who will be pleased to respond. He can be contacted by email at [REDACTED] or by telephone on [REDACTED]. Alternatively his correspondence address is above.

Yours sincerely



Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk

[REDACTED]

**Sent:** 05 June 2018 16:18

**To:** Fellows, Martin

**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Fellows,

I have received an email from my above mentioned constituent complaining about the condition of the A1 road surface in my constituency, particularly potholes.

I would be grateful if you could outline for me what works, if any, are planned to alleviate this problem.

Many thanks and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Dictated by Alistair

[REDACTED]



Our ref: CRS 742,457  
Your ref:

Second Floor  
Woodlands  
Manton Lane  
Bedford MK41 7LW

Sir Alistair Burt MP  
House of Commons  
LONDON  
SW1A 0AA

Direct Line: 0300 470 3524

13 September 2016

Dear Sir Alistair Burt

Thank you for your email of 12 September on behalf of your constituent, [REDACTED] who has raised concerns about litter along the A1 in Bedfordshire. I am sorry that his visitors had cause to comment on the amount of visible litter.

We share [REDACTED] concerns that litter on our roads is unsightly and an environmental hazard. It is particularly frustrating because if litter was appropriately disposed of in the first place, the money we spend collecting it could be used for improvement schemes to help save lives or to benefit economic growth.

It may be helpful if I explain that under the Environmental Protection Act 1980 (EPA), we are responsible for the management of litter on all England's motorways and on some trunk roads. Local district and borough councils are responsible for litter on all other roads, including the A1 in Bedfordshire.

We are making progress to enhance collaborative working with these local authorities on clearing the network. This involves partnership agreements, much more active communication to combine maintenance activities and litter collections and the sharing of resources. Over time, we hope to fully establish these new working practices and assess their effectiveness and share best practice. As part of this initiative, we last wrote to all district and borough authorities responsible for clearing litter from the A1 reminding them of their obligations under the EPA on 3 February but we do plan to issue a further reminder later this year.

We have also started to write to relevant district and borough authorities following our weekly safety inspections of the strategic road network, to tell them what lengths require attention and also to thank them when we are able to record that litter picking has improved its appearance.

This approach to litter on our network is guided by our litter strategy. This strategy was developed to outline strategic goals and initiatives to support the effective management of litter and set a vision of a network predominantly free from litter.

Our litter strategy is available to view on our website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/highways-agency-litter-strategy>.

In addition to our usual litter clearance activities, we are working with various bodies and anti-litter organisations, including Keep Britain Tidy to make littering socially unacceptable.

Influencing this change in littering behaviour will take time but by raising awareness through national and regional anti-litter campaigns, as well as supporting our local authority partners with local initiatives, we are actively working towards a safer, cleaner and tidier network.

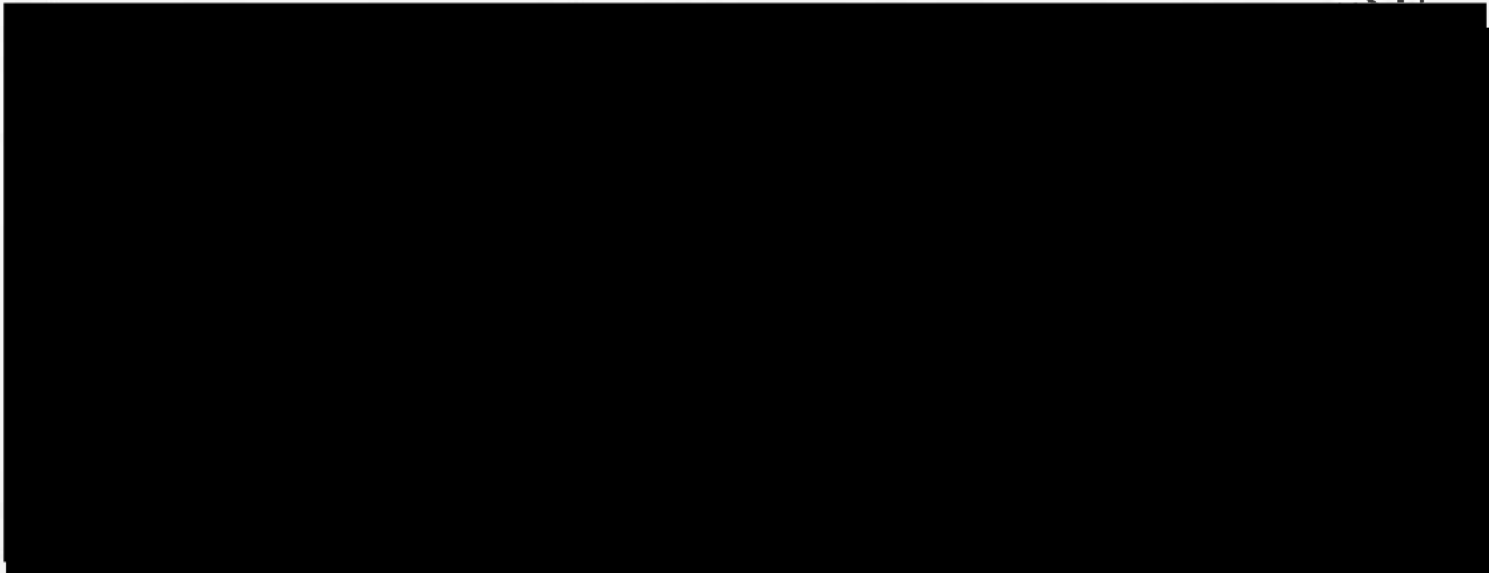
I hope I have been able to assure you and [REDACTED] that we take the cleanliness of the A1 as part of the wider strategic road network very seriously. If [REDACTED] would like more information about how we engage with local and district borough councils to manage litter on the A1, he is welcome to contact our service delivery manager, [REDACTED] at the above address, by email at [REDACTED] or by telephone on [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely

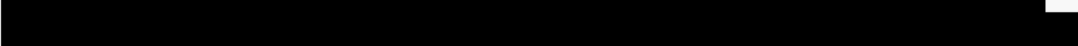


Martin Fellows  
Regional Director  
Operations (East)  
Email: [martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:martin.fellows@highwaysengland.co.uk)

27



-----Original Message-----



Sent: 12 September 2016 16:36

To: Fellows, Martin

Subject: [Redacted]

Dear Mr Fellows

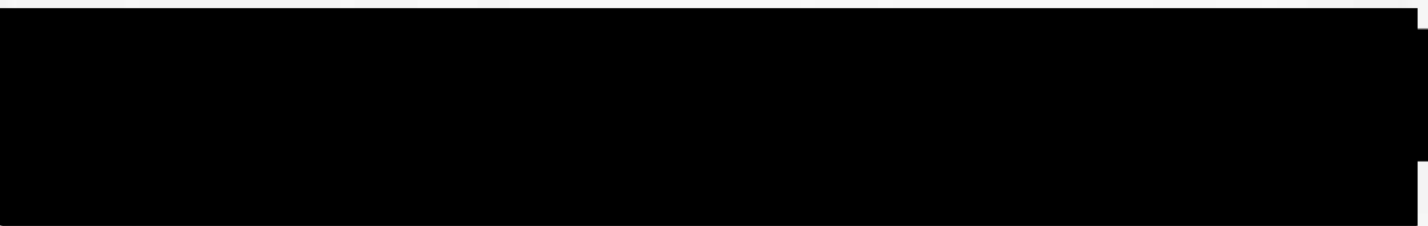
I have been contacted by my above mentioned constituent. [Redacted] is perturbed by the litter along the A1 in Bedfordshire, particularly so since he has hosted a delegation of foreign visitors who commented on the amount of litter visible.

I would be very grateful for more information from you that I might pass to my constituent to reassure him.

Thank you and kind regards

Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

Dictated by Alistair



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