

Heysham to M6 Link – Press release - October 2009

Publication of Orders

THE Heysham M6 Link will take another step closer to becoming reality with the publishing of a series of legal orders.

Planning permission for the scheme was granted last year and the orders now being published will allow the council to buy land for the scheme, alter existing roads and accesses, construct new slip roads at junction 34 and build a new bridge over the Lancaster Canal.

The publishing of the orders comes after extensive consultation and negotiation with affected parties.

County Councillor Keith Young, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, said: "After so many years of consultation, design and discussion it is nice to reach this major milestone.

"This road is vital to the area as it will bring much needed congestion relief and encourage both industrial and tourist regeneration. While the new road will assist those wishing to avoid the city centre we will also be bringing along a package of measures to help those who want to get into the city centre.

"The scheme also includes a park and ride at junction 34 and we are now looking for other suitable sites around the city. These measures will be based on the previous study commissioned by the County Council and the Vision Board and carried out by Faber Maunsell and will compliment the measures already introduced over many years previously."

People have until the 10th December to object to the legal orders and, depending on the number of valid objections; the Government Office will decide whether to hold a public inquiry. The need for the road and the route of the road were fully explored in the five week Planning Inquiry held in 2007 where the Inspector recommended, and the Secretary of State agreed, that the road was needed and the best route had been chosen. Usually these items are not discussed in a second inquiry.

If the orders are confirmed then the county council will submit a revised funding bid to the government with a view to work starting in April 2011. The current estimated cost of the scheme is £139 million of which central government would provide £133 million.

The documents can be inspected at Lancaster Town Hall, Lancaster and Morecambe Libraries and at the County Council Offices on Cross Street in Preston. Copies have also been provided to the local Parish Councils and Morecambe Town Council. They can also be viewed on the County Council website.