

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

A21 TONBRIDGE TO PEMBURY DUALLING

STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE PROPOSALS

INTRODUCTION

1. On 11 December 2009 the Secretary of State for Transport published draft proposals for the A21 Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling scheme. The proposals include the widening of the existing carriageway to dual 2 lane under general powers of the Highways Act 1980. They also include other works contained in three draft Orders and an application for listed building consent as follows:-

- a) The A21 Trunk Road (Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling) Order 20.. which if made, would provide that the roads that he proposes to construct between Tonbridge and Pembury would become trunk roads from the date when the Order comes into force.
- b) The A21 Trunk Road (Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling)(Detrunking) Order 20.. which, if made, would provide that the length of the A21 Trunk Road to be superseded by the new trunk road shall cease to be a trunk road and that the lengths remaining shall be classified as a classified road from the date on which the Secretary of State notifies the Kent County Council that the new trunk road is open for traffic.
- c) The A21 Trunk Road (Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling Side Roads) Order 20.. which, if made, would authorise him to stop up, improve and provide new local highways and provide for the transfer of the new highways to Kent Count Council as highway authority and, to stop up and provide new private means of access to premises.
- d) An application to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council for listed building consent which if granted would authorise him to demolish 2 listed buildings.

2. The Secretary of State has also published four further draft Orders, as follows:

- a. The A21 Trunk Road (Tonbridge Bypass to Pembury Bypass Dualling) Order 1996 (Revocation) Order 20...
- b. The A21 Trunk Road (Tonbridge Bypass to Pembury Bypass Dualling Side Roads) Order 1996 (Revocation) Order 20...

- c. *The A21 Trunk Road (Tonbridge Bypass to Pembury Bypass Dualling Slip Roads) Order 1996 (Revocation) Order 20...*
- d. *The A21 Trunk Road (Tonbridge Bypass to Pembury Bypass Dualling) (Detrunking) Order 1996 (Revocation) Order 20...*

All of which, if made, would revoke the Orders made in respect of the former proposals for the dual carriageway improvement of the A21 between Tonbridge and Pembury, also known as the “Blue Route”.

THE DRAFT COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER

3. The Secretary of state has also published the draft *A21 Trunk Road (Tonbridge to Pembury Dualling) Compulsory Purchase Order (No _____) 20..* which, if made, would authorise the compulsory acquisition of the land and rights detailed in the Schedule to the Order for –

- (i). The construction of the new A21 route and slip roads authorised by the Order at paragraph 1a) above,
- (ii). The construction and improvement of highways and the provision of new means of access to premises authorised by the Order at paragraph 1c) above,
- (iii). The construction of balancing ponds and provision of flood compensation areas
- (iv). Mitigating any adverse effect which the existence or use of the new works would have on their surroundings, and
- (v). Use in connection with the construction of these works.

ACCOMMODATION WORKS

4. In certain circumstances the Secretary of State would be prepared to carry out accommodation works. Such works would be carried out for the benefit of the vendor's remaining land and would be reflected in the compensation to which he or she may become entitled.

STATUTORY PROCEDURES

5. Anyone wishing to support, comment on or object to the draft Compulsory Purchase Order, or put forward alternative suggestions for consideration, should write not later than 5 March 2010 to the Secretary of State for Transport at the Highways Agency, Major Projects (South), Room 2A, Federated House, London Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SZ.

The draft Compulsory Purchase Order and its plans, together with the draft Orders and listed building consent application mentioned at paragraphs 1 and 2 above and their plans, may be inspected free of charge at all reasonable hours from 11

December 2009 until 5 March 2010 at the Highways Agency, Major Projects (South), Federated House, London Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SZ; Tonbridge Library, Avebury Avenue, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1TG; Pembury Library, The Hop House, Hemwood Green Road, Pembury, TN2 4HS; Tunbridge Wells Library, Mount Pleasant Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1NS; Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS; Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council Gateway, Tonbridge Castle, Castle Street, Tonbridge, TN9 1BG and Kent County Council Reception, Invicta House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX.

6. If objections are received from any person being an owner, lessee or occupier of land and such objections are not withdrawn, then an opportunity will be given for objectors to state their views at a public inquiry before an independent Inspector as soon as possible after the end of the objection period. If an Inquiry were to be held all objectors would be notified individually at least six weeks beforehand and those who made representations or wish to support the proposals would be similarly informed. Notice of any public inquiry would also be published in the local press and publicity would be given to any alternative proposals received.

7. It should be borne in mind that it might be necessary to communicate the substance of all comments received, including alternative proposals, to other people who may be affected by them. If an inquiry is held, letters of objection and representation would also be passed to the Inspector holding that inquiry and in that event he might be required by the rules of procedure not only to disclose them at that inquiry but, unless there were special reasons to the contrary, also the identities of the authors.

COMPENSATION

8. Statutory provisions exist concerning compensation for compulsory purchase of land and depreciation in value of properties. More information is given in the booklets in the series "Compulsory Purchase and Compensation" listed below:

Booklet No 1 – Compulsory Purchase: Procedure

Booklet No 2 – Compensation to Business Owners and Occupiers

Booklet No 3 – Compensation to Agricultural Owners and Occupiers

Booklet No 4 – Compensation to Residential Owners and Occupiers

Booklet No 5 – Mitigation Works

9. Copies of these booklets are available for inspection with the draft Compulsory Purchase Order and its associated plan at the places listed in paragraph 6. Copies may also be obtained free of charge from the Highways Agency, Major Projects (South), Room 2A, Federated House, London Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH4 1SZ (Tel: 01306 878122).

December 2009