



## Your questions answered

Answers to some of the questions we have been asked are below. Visit the frequently asked questions section of the county council website for more answers to key issues.

**Q: Why is the Halton Link included? This puts too much traffic into the village.**

The Halton road link was added to the scheme proposals following a request by many village residents at the August 2001 public consultation.

Our traffic analysis shows that the link will result in 2,800 fewer traffic movements to and from the village with traffic diverting to the link road from Denny Beck Lane and Foundry Lane. We also predict an 8% reduction in traffic at the mini roundabout in Halton.

We are aware of the concerns of residents with respect to the impact on Church Brow, where traffic numbers will increase from 4,600 vehicles per day to 8,000. Should the scheme go ahead we will consider extending the 20mph area within Halton to include Church Brow and will consult on any additional necessary measures. We will also establish a monitoring regime for the retaining wall.

**Q: Why did you not consult on alternative routes?**

Our consultation took account of government guidance on pre-application consultation. The guidance advises that the expectations of consultees should be properly managed; therefore it must be made clear what cannot be changed and why and what remains to be decided. This scheme has a long history and previous consultations have examined a range of routes and alternative

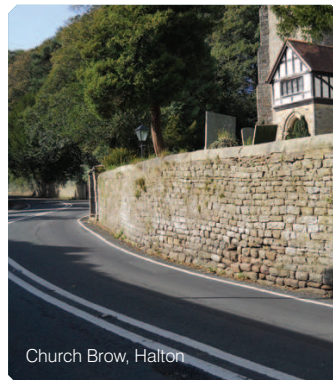
modes. This resulted in the selection of the northern route road as the only viable alternative likely to achieve the objectives of the scheme. This was confirmed in the Planning Inspectors report in 2008 following the 2007 Public Inquiry.

Comments were received on a wide range of points, further details of which can be found in our consultation report.

**Q: With cost cutting across the council, how can spending on this scheme be justified and how can the public be sure they won't end up paying for big cost overruns.**

Whilst the council needs to reduce ongoing annual costs, it also realises that there still needs to be capital investment in infrastructure projects that will provide both a very good rate of return and a boost to the economy. The Heysham Link is one of these schemes. The scheme is considered vital to promote regeneration of some of the most economical deprived regions of the county, helping to promote further financial investment in the future. This is also recognised by the government who, whilst also cost cutting, has recently confirmed their commitment to the project naming it as one of the top priority infrastructure projects. The total cost of the scheme is £123m and the county council's funding of £12m towards the scheme is far outweighed by the £111m from the government - if the scheme did not go ahead this government investment would be lost to the area.

While the county council's contribution to scheme costs has increased, this allocated money includes contingency funds and a budget to cover inflation rises. The nature of the contract with



Church Brow, Halton

any contractor, ties that contractor to an agreed target cost, within the total £123m budget. If construction costs cannot be agreed within this limit, an alternative contractor will be found. The contract is also set up to limit the exposure of the council to any cost overrun. There is a strict ceiling for council liability for cost overruns, over which the contractor must pay the difference; this also means there is a strict limit of exposure to the people of Lancashire.

### Find out more

To find out more and keep up to date with the progress of the application:

**Visit our website:**  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk/heyshamlink](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/heyshamlink)

**Email:**  
[heyshamtom6link@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:heyshamtom6link@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Write to:**  
Heysham to M6 Link, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 100, County Hall, Preston, PR1 0LD  
Telephone 0845 053 0011

**Visit the IPC website:**  
<http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/heysham>

**Contact the IPC helpline:**  
0303 444 5000

## Link Road planning application accepted for examination

The county council submitted an application for development consent for the Link Road to the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) in December 2011 and on 23 December 2011, the IPC accepted our application for examination.

If you want to be involved in the examination of the proposals, you must register with the IPC by the 20 February 2012.

Whilst a formal notice of the accepted application is also being published, this newsletter sets out where you can view our full application, including all of the documents that were submitted to the IPC, how you can continue to be involved in the formal examination process and the deadlines to do so.

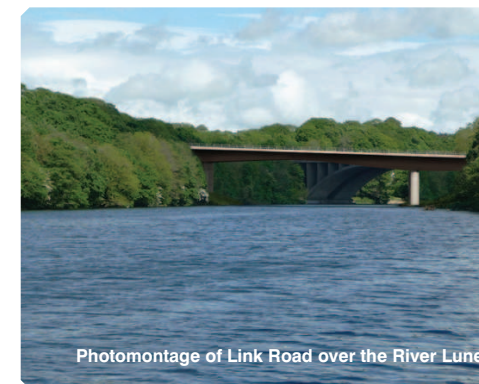
The Heysham to M6 Link Road would provide a long awaited connection from the M6 Junction 34 to the Heysham and Morecambe peninsula.

The link road aims to improve access for businesses in Heysham and Morecambe including the port and nuclear power stations. It also includes a park and ride at Junction 34 serving the centre of Lancaster.

On top of the ongoing economic benefits, construction alone is expected to employ over 3,000 people. Around 100 local unemployed people will also receive training and jobs during construction.

The planning regime has changed since this scheme was last approved. This means a new application had to be submitted to the IPC.

A number of documents were submitted to the IPC as our application. These included plans; drawings; a draft development consent order; compulsory acquisition information; reports and statements.



Photomontage of Link Road over the River Lune

One of the key documents submitted was the consultation report that was produced following an eight week consultation period (detailed in Issue 3 of The Link). It summarised the suggestions we have received from you and outlined changes that were made to the design of the road. These helped shape the county council's application.



Photomontage of Link Road crossing over Torrisholme Road



## How you can be involved

We are now entering the pre-examination phase. Whether you support or oppose the road this is your opportunity to become involved in the formal planning process and give further feedback. To take part in the examination of the application you must register with the IPC as an interested party (the county council cannot register you).

### To register as an interested party:

Visit the IPC website - <http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/heysham>

Alternatively, a copy of the form can be requested from the helpline on 0303 444 5000.

The IPC reference number for this application is: TR010008. This should be quoted in any correspondence.

The registration period is time-limited but a minimum of 28 days will be provided.

Once registered, you will also be kept up to date with the progress of the application and will have the opportunity to:

- Put a summary of your case to the IPC in writing (known as making a relevant representation).
- Request to speak at the Preliminary Meeting about how the application should be examined.
- Provide a more detailed written representation to the IPC.
- Request that a hearing be held.
- Request to speak at a hearing.

More guidance is available in the IPC Advice Note 8.3: "Putting your

case to the IPC", available on the IPC website.

At the end of the registration period, copies of all representations will be published on the IPC website (personal details such as addresses and contact details will be removed). Printed copies will also be made available locally.

People who have registered with the IPC will be invited to attend and take part in the Preliminary Meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to set out the procedure for examining the application only, including, setting the timetable for making more detailed written representations. It will not be an opportunity to discuss the merits of the application or to put your case forward.

You cannot register before the 11 January 2012.



Photomontage of Lune Bridge

**The deadline for registration is 20 February 2012.**

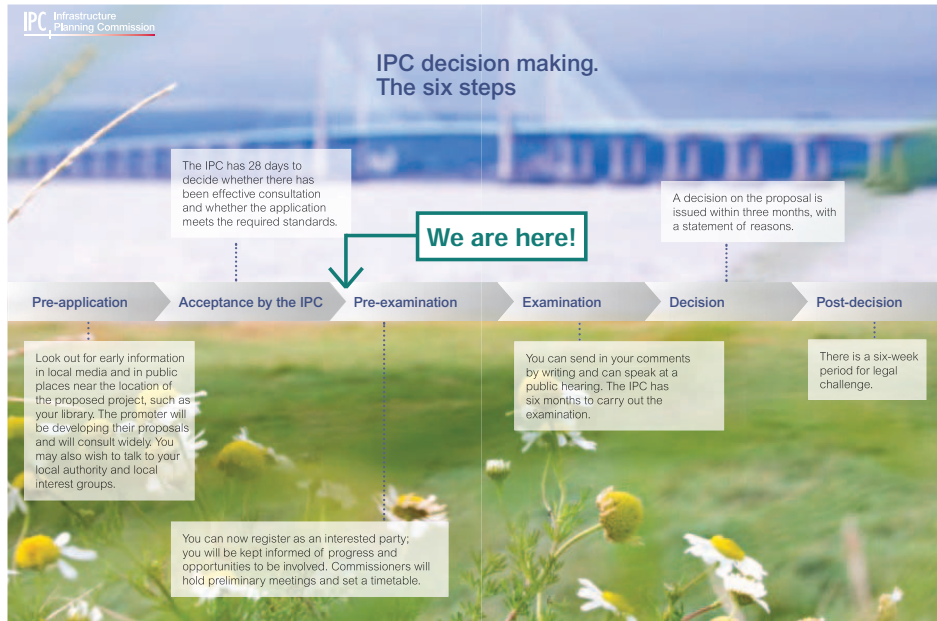
## View the full application

Our application included a consultation report along with an Environmental Statement, and plans of the proposals.

**Online:**  
Lancashire County Council website  
[www.lancashire.gov.uk/heyshamlink](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/heyshamlink)

A copy of all the documents submitted with our application including the environmental statement are available to be viewed free of charge, at the following locations from 11 January 2012 to the 31 October 2012.

IPC website:  
<http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/heysham>



Source - [www.infrastructure.independent.gov.uk](http://www.infrastructure.independent.gov.uk)

Council offices	Libraries	Parish Councils
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lancaster Town Hall</li> <li>• Morecambe Town Hall</li> <li>• County Hall, Preston</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lancaster</li> <li>• Morecambe</li> <li>• Halton</li> <li>• Heysham</li> <li>• Bolton-le-Sands</li> <li>• Carnforth</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caton with Littledale</li> <li>• Halton with Aughton</li> <li>• Heaton with Oxcliffe</li> <li>• Slyne-with-Hest</li> </ul>
Viewing times are 9am to 5pm (weekdays).	Viewing times vary – please check with the library or check our website.	Please contact the parish clerk, the county council or visit our website for further details.

Electronic copies of the information can be provided free of charge from the county council - see contacts over. For paper copies there will be a charge of up to £700 for the full suite of documents.