

Appendix - Evidence of frequency of interruption of the M11

M11 Capacity, Safety and overflow onto the B1383

The section of the M11 between junctions 8 and 9 adjoins this site. From Junction 8 the motorway has two lanes in both directions all the way to Junction 14 where the motorway terminates. It is highly likely that the capacity of this essential road will need to be expanded to meet current and future transport needs. In the meantime the B1383 (which is the main road through Newport) serves as the primary relief road for the M11 between junctions 8 (Stansted) to 9 (Hinxtun). This is the longest stretch of motorway in the country without a junction (15 miles northbound and 17 miles uninterrupted between junctions 8 (Stansted) to 10 (Duxford) southbound).

Therefore, every time that there is an accident on the M11 between junctions 8 and 9/10 the traffic in Newport is increased to many times its normal flow. Not only does this block the B1383 but also the surrounding lanes. The whole length of the B1383 through Great Chesterford, Littlebury and Stansted Mountfitchet is completely overwhelmed with traffic.

In instances such as that experienced on Thursday 23rd November 2017 where there was a very serious head-on collision on the B1383 just south of Newport AND an accident on the M11 the traffic in the area was gridlocked for hours until the accident was cleared.

Highways England review

Highways England are working with Essex Police to investigate the reasons behind the number of serious accidents on this stretch of the M11, including 3 fatal accidents in the past year.

Between January 1 and September 11 2017 there were 64 collisions between junction 5 and junction 9, according to Essex Police figures.

Local MPs Mark Prisk, MP for Hertford and Stortford, and Sir Oliver Heald, MP for North East Hertfordshire, both met with Highways England on 15th November 2017 to discuss concerns over the number of recent accidents on the M11. Mr Prisk said: "It is clear this stretch of the M11 has become more dangerous." "Traffic is rising, but the rate of accidents means more should be done to inform and manage the route. I welcome this review of the road and have asked for an early sight of its findings. Individual drivers must play their part in ensuring they drive carefully, but improvements to the signage, lane management and capacity of the M11 would be welcome."

Simon Amor, Highways England asset delivery manager, said: "Safety is Highways England's top priority, and we keep safety on the M11 under continual review." "We are looking into any potential causes behind the recent increase in accidents on this stretch of the M11, and will take action on anything we find." Source: <http://www.hertfordshiremercury.co.uk/news/hertfordshire-news/m11-safety-concerns-raised-mps-784604>

In addition, the MP for Harlow flagged his concerns directly to central Government in September 2017: <http://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/harlow-mp-robert-halfon-raise-462551>

Report from the Officer in Charge of W84 Newport Fire Station

Fire Officer Neil Byford reports that they attended 9 events on the M11 in the 12 months to June 2017 which would have closed one or both sides of the M11. As noted above this will not be all the closures as crews from Saffron Walden, Stansted Mountfitchet, Harlow, Thaxted and Bishop Stortford are also routinely called out.

Further, he writes that they are suffering increasing delays in departure as crew members come to the fire station from all directions and are struggling with getting through the traffic in the centre of Newport. *'When we eventually pull out of Debden Road in the appliance, we are often unable to go anywhere as the traffic has nowhere to go'*. The route for emergency vehicles to and from the M11 is along the High Street and Wicken Road past the proposed site entrance

Source: 'Newport News' editions 87 and 88.

Update – 2019 Here is another example – two crashes between J8 and J9 on 13th February 2019

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/cambridge-news/drivers-m11-stansted-crash-traffic-15829549>

There being no record visible online of the outcome of the review in 2017 a call was made to Highways England 0300 1235 5000 on 16 August 2019. A message was passed to 'area 6' and a response is awaited

