

On 28th July 2009 Hazel Smith and I attended a JAG meeting concerned with noise generated by the A14 widening..

The meeting was well attended . The speaker was Giles Parker MD of Sound Barrier Solutions. He may be engaged by the developers, agencies involved or by JAG (if we contribute towards a fund of unknown proportions). He also Chairs The British Standards Committee and knows who adhere to its parameters and who do not!.

The UK investment in reducing noise is poor and low by comparison with other countries. An upper limit of “50 units of noise” is the European upper limit but we are 60.

There are many ways of reducing noise and we should be asking for the appropriate methods during consultation. Action will depend upon costs ,as ever, and he gave the impression that all spending which is not absolutely necessary would be resisted. We would therefore need to be able to argue the case for reductive measures with confidence and knowledge.

He gave a comprehensive list of ways to reduce noise levels and supplied details of the pros and cons of different methods.

The following methods are dependant upon one another in some cases and some may be deemed inappropriate in certain situations:-

Road Surface.

Barriers –should be 10 metres high.

Trees –depend on growth rate , density and type.

Timber as in fencing no good –noise goes through.

Plastic is reflective .Durability is 40 years. Therefore maintenance costs off setting initial savings. Road closures during maintenance must be taken into consideration and they are enormous. Other materials can be absorptive.

Milton has particular noise problems because of the river and lakes ,the river bridge and prevailing wind all contributing to the decibels.