**M40 Noise Mitigation – M40CEG Report, Sept 2015**

John Howell MP Henley, Steve Baker MP Wycombe, were present at a progress meeting of the Joint Barrier Trial Programme, together with representatives of Bucks County Council, Wycombe and South Oxfordshire District Councils and M40 CEG. Mike Wilson, Chief Engineer of Highways England and his staff briefed the meeting on the current status and next stages of the programme.

Phase 2A is well advanced, all six of the selected submissions are progressing through. Approval in Principle is for use on the trunk road network in England. Phase 2B involves demonstration of the selected designs. Highways England is hoping that this will take the form of High Quality 3D representations.

The next step is evaluation of site investigations to ascertain the character of proposed areas to ensure suitability of barriers for each site. Site investigations will be reviewed against each of the six selected designs. Performance testing is planned before and after installation.

Phase 3 of the programme was outlined. It involves design of the overall scheme and preparation of the business case for barrier procurement. It will include consultation with local communities, currently expected at the end of first quarter 2016. All of these are critical to a successful outcome.

M40 CEG presented work in progress on Noise Mapping of barrier locations, which it is hoped will contribute to design optimisation and performance evaluation.

Highways England is clearly very committed to the programme and is making good progress.

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