

# *A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road*



Stockport Council

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## A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road – A6MARR

Consultation on Proposed Additional Screening South of  
Darley Road and Ashbourne Road –

March 2018

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# 1 Control Sheet

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1. This report presents the findings from the Stockport Council consultation undertaken between Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March on proposed additional screening to the rear of properties on Darley Road and Ashbourne Road, as part of the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (A6MARR). The proposals for additional screening have been developed as a concern raised by a resident of Ashbourne Road that the current approved design does not provide sufficient screening for properties on Ashbourne Road. Following this, on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2018, a petition was submitted requesting *“an additional 1-2 metres to be built on the bund to the south of our properties as you recently have done with other properties on the scheme.”*

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## 2. Background

- 2.1.1. Throughout the development of the A6MARR, the A6MARR Project Team has worked with residents to inform the scheme design and design changes have been made across the scheme to seek to address concerns raised by residents. With specific reference to the scheme design south of properties on Darley Road and Ashbourne Road, the design was developed to balance residents' requests to screen road traffic with requests for the screening itself not to be visually obtrusive.
- 2.1.2. During the Phase 2 consultation, a design was presented which showed an acoustic fence to be positioned on top of the bund. Following concerns raised by residents during the Phase 2 consultation about the visual impact of the proposals, the bund was re-profiled to a shallower gradient and the fence moved to be positioned at carriageway level, at a height of 3 metres. This scheme design was submitted for planning in October 2013 and was approved by Stockport Council as the local planning authority.

- 2.1.3. The scheme design remained as per the original approved planning application until a requirement to dispose of additional earth arising from the site was identified. Consequently, a consultation on the proposed revised bund design was carried out in November 2016.
- 2.1.4. The description of the bund in the consultation is as follows: *"Site is an existing proposed earthwork bund located south of Darley Road, Hazel Grove between the rear of the properties and the A6MARR carriageway. Proposed to increase the mound height of the western end of the currently approved mound. Proposed mound height increase up to approximately 2.2m over the currently approved mound."* The cross section of the bund in the vicinity of Ashbourne Road, provided as part of the consultation, states *"Proposed bund very similar to original designed profile"*. The 3 metre high acoustic fence remained at carriageway level as part of these proposals.
- 2.1.5. The planning application submitted for the revised bund in February 2017 is as per design consulted on in November 2016, with the acoustic fence remaining at carriageway level. The description of the planning application is as follows: *"Extension of earth mound using earth arising from the construction of the A6 to Manchester Airport Relief Road (Bund 8). The proposed development involves an extension to the western end of the Darley Road bund and an increase in height to the western end of the bund, which then slopes down toward the east to meet the original proposed profile."*
- 2.1.6. The bund in its current state is as per the approved design and the 3 metre high acoustic fence at carriageway level is currently being erected. However, it is evident from recent feedback a resident and subsequent petition from Ashbourne Road residents that current scheme design does not provide the anticipated amount of screening. Requests have therefore been received to introduce further screening.
- 2.1.7. It should be noted that acoustic and air quality issues are dealt with in the original planning application for the A6MARR and the 3 metre high acoustic fence to be installed at carriageway level provides sufficient acoustic mitigation.

2.1.8. In light of the concerns raised regarding the visual screening offered by the approved scheme design during the construction of the A6MARR, the A6MARR project team considered potential options to provide additional visual screening. The introduction of additional 1.8 metre high close boarded fencing on top of the existing bund has been presented for consultation as it offers the additional visual screening requested, whilst avoiding affecting completed permanent works in the area or impacting the progress of the construction of the Macclesfield Road junction. Shrub and trees planting would also be incorporated to soften the visual impact of the fence.

2.1.9. Two options for the for the extent of screen fencing on top of the bund were presented for consultation, as follows:

a) 1.8m high close boarded fence on top of bund from approximately 38 Darley Road to approximately Millbrook Fold (south of properties on Ashbourne Road only)

b) 1.8m high close boarded fence on top of bund from approximately Macclesfield Road to approximately Millbrook Fold (south of properties on Darley Road and Ashbourne Road)

2.1.10. The approximate extent of the proposed additional fencing for the above two options is shown on the plan provided at **Appendix A**.

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## 3. METHODOLOGY

3.1.1. The following paragraphs present the consultation methodology including details of the aims, audience, timescale and methods of consultation

### 3.2. CONSULTATION AIMS, AUDIENCE AND TIMESCALE

3.2.1. The purpose of the consultation was to request feedback from residents local to Ashbourne and Darley Road on the proposal of additional fence and landscaping south of properties on Darley Road and Ashbourne Road.

3.2.2. The consultation was held between Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018, with responses received before 14<sup>th</sup> April considered by this report.

### 3.3. METHODS OF CONSULTATION

3.3.1. A letter was sent to those local to the proposals, as included at **Appendix B**, to provide background to and descriptions to the proposals and an invitation to a consultation meeting on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at Hazel Grove Civic Hall. The plan showing the proposal, provided at **Appendix A** was also provided along with a response form and prepaid envelope.

3.3.2. The drop area included 69 properties fronting Ashbourne Road, Darley Road and Millbrook Fold. The letter was also emailed to Local Councillors by way of the email at **Appendix C**.

3.3.3. The letter advised that comments on the proposed fencing could be made either via the response form, by attending the consultation meeting, telephone or email.

3.3.4. As it was recognized that residents may need additional information beyond that contained within letter and plan in order to inform their response, a consultation meeting was organised 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to discuss the proposals further with representatives from the A6MARR Project Team.

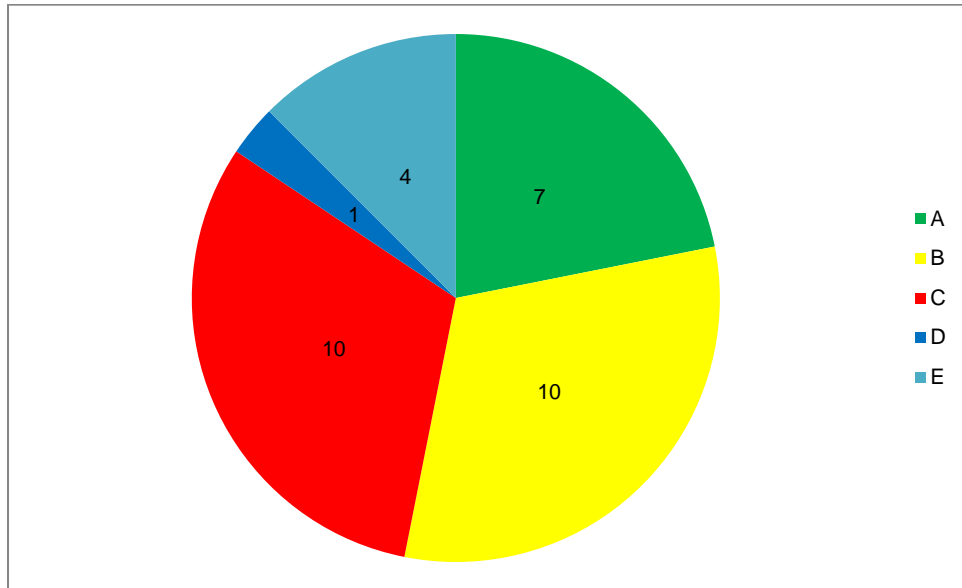
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## 4. CONSULTATION RESPONSES

- 4.1.1. A total of 32 consultation responses were received, majority via the response form provided in the letter to residents but some were also received in the public consultation and via email.
- 4.1.2. Local councilors supported residents' aspiration for improved screening.
- 4.1.3. The response form asked respondent to indicate their preference from four options (**a to d**):
- a) 1.8 m high close boarded fence on top of bund from 38 Darley Road to Millbrook Fold (south of properties on Ashbourne Road only)
  - b) 1.8 m high close boarded fence on top of the bund from Macclesfield Road to Millbrook Fold (south of properties on Darley Road and Ashbourne Road)
  - c) No additional screening
  - d) No preference
- 4.1.4. In addition to the options above, four respondents from Ashbourne Road did not agree with any of the above options but instead requested that height of the bund was increased without the introduction of fencing on top. This suggestion is shown as "E" in Figure 4.1.



**Figure 4.1 Summary of responses of different options**



4.1.5. Based on the responses seven people chose the option A, ten people chose the option B, equally ten people chose the option C, one person chose the option D. Four people requested that the bund was increased in height .

4.1.6. The following provides a summary of the additional information provided by residents in respect of their selected option.

**Option A** (Fence south of properties on Ashbourne Road only):

- Either option A or B would be suitable option for screening as they both would provide the same benefit, but have decided to choose option A.
- Hope that the additional screening will be added, as it is considered this will make a difference.
- As the residents of Ashbourne Road put forward an amendment to either increase of bund or alternative (fencing).
- Would prefer natural planting of trees and bushes.

**Option B** (Fence south of properties on Darley Road and Ashbourne Road):

- Purely for security reasons

- Feel that once road is open there will be noise constantly throughout the day and night once the road is open. Option B would buffer the noise.
- Main concern is air-pollution from increased traffic
- Pre-empts any issues arising from residents on Darley Road in the future and will provide further noise screening
- By-pass is an eye sore

**Option C (no fencing):**

- No additional screening needed
- Voicing concerns and objections to the proposed changes to the screening of the carriageway. Concern that these proposals have been raised in response to residents of Ashbourne road, ignoring the wishes of the residents of Darley Road whose gardens already have visual impact to them and resulting in the loss of light particularly in winter.
- Opposition to the introduction of the fence on top of the uneven bund
- Darley Road residents have made no requests to increase the height of the bund. Interested to know of the volume of residents to instigate a consultation of this nature.
- Opposition to fence ever as view already dark
- Disappointed that the bund could not be raised

**Option D (no preference)**

- No comments

**Increasing Height of Bund (E)** – added by the residents of Ashbourne Road after a consultation meeting:

- This option has been missed out. Over one metre of soil only.
- Fencing is not an option
- Request to raise bund at rear of Ashbourne Road properties to the same level as rear of Darley Road
- Plant shrubs and trees as for other similar bunds along the length of the scheme

- Residents of Ashbourne Road have made their feelings very clear and look forward to favourable outcome (heightening of the bund)
- 4.1.7. **Appendix D** shows the consultation area divided into three areas (**A to C**) highlighting the divide in replies between the different areas.
- 4.1.8. **Area A** includes properties between 4 and 38 Darley Road. The majority of the replies in the area were received from Southern side of the road (i.e. closest to the A6MARR alignment). Eight of the respondents in the area chose **option C** (no fencing), making this a majority of the replies. **Option A** (fence south of properties on Ashbourne Road only) was chosen in three replies and equally **option B** (fence south of properties on Darley Road and Ashbourne Road) was chosen by three people.
- 4.1.9. **Area B** includes properties between 40 to 48 Darley Road, the Southern side of Ashbourne road from 28 to 48 and 1-2 Millbrook Fold. **Option A** (fence south of properties on Ashbourne Road only) was chosen by three respondents, with three replies. Two people opted for **option B** (fence south of properties on Darley Road and Ashbourne Road) and properties on Millbrook Fold, most Eastern side of the area, had chosen **option C** (no screening). One respondent had no preference (**option D**). In Area B, three respondents requested that the bund be increased in height.
- 4.1.10. **Area C** includes properties on the northern side of Ashbourne Road from 43 to 61 and 3-4 Millbrook Fold. Majority of the respondent in the area chose **option B** (fence south of properties on Darley Road and Ashbourne Road) with 5 replies. Also one respondent chose **option A** (fence south of properties on Ashbourne Road only). In Area C, one resident requested that the bund be increased in height.
- 4.1.11. In summary, it is evident that:
- The majority of Darley Road residents do not support the introduction of additional visual screening south of properties on Darley Road.
  - Among Ashbourne Road residents there is support for additional screening to be provided, in the form of either a 1.8 metre high fence (seven respondents) or bund (four respondents).
  - Residents of Millbrook Fold directly adjacent to the A6MARR boundary do not support the introduction of additional visual screening.





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## 5. Appendix A - Proposed Additional Screening Plan

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## 6. Appendix B – Consultation Letter

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## 7. Appendix C – Consultation areas



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## 8. Appendix D – Consultation letter drop area