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HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Dear Resident,

Re: A120 Bradwell meeting, 23rd May 2014

I would like to thank you for attending the meeting on the A120 last week and am grateful to Bradwell Parish Council for organising this meeting.

As discussed at the meeting, I am in regular contact with the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency about the A120, as well as local authorities, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and Haven Gateway about the A120. I am pressing for a commitment to be given to develop a long term solution to the problems with this road. As well as the safety issues and problems specific to the Bradwell area, the A120 is a major economic artery and upgrading and improving the road between Braintree and Marks Tey will have significant economic benefits for the region.

Following my representations, the Government and Highways Agency have developed a Route Based Strategy covering the A120 and improving this road is listed as a high priority. I am now in the process of pressing Ministers to commit in principle to supporting a scheme to upgrade the road by including it on the National Infrastructure Plan, which contains the Government's programme of more than 600 high priority infrastructure projects. Securing such a commitment may help to unlock new funding opportunities.

As for the details of a scheme to upgrade the road, the meeting showed that many people have different ideas about the type of scheme, whether the A120 should be re-routed and whether there should be private sector contributions from development. I reiterate that there are no schemes or plans in place and my priority is ensure that Government in conjunction with the Highways Agency undertakes all the necessary studies and consultations required should upgrading of the road be possible. This also means that securing a broad level of support for the principle of upgrading the road will be required.

There are many other infrastructure initiatives across the country also campaigning hard for resources and I want to ensure that we do everything possible to get the A120 well placed for Government investment. To this effect, I believe that communities along the A120 are keen to work together and present a united front because upgrading the A120 is an important an objective for us all.



I am fully aware that some suggested ideas associated with the A120 are controversial. But no schemes are in place and no scheme can be progressed without full public consultation and I am very much in favour of locally-based solution being devised. I have reiterated this point to the Government and want them and the Highways Agency to support local communities along the A120 to develop a viable and robust solution to the A120 question.

In the meantime, I will continue to work with local communities to address the day-to-day issues that arise with the A120, and residents in Bradwell will be particularly familiar with the pressure I have put on the A210 to sort out highways, drainage and lighting issues in recent months.

Yours sincerely,

with all good wishes,

Priti Patel
Member of Parliament for Witham