

Planning Policy,
South Oxfordshire District Council,
135 Eastern Avenue,
Milton Park,
Milton,
ABINGDON.
OX14 4SB

22131/A3/NS/dw

BY EMAIL & POST: planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk

18th February, 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN 2011 - 2034
SECOND PUBLICATION VERSION (JANUARY 2019)
RESPONSE ON BEHALF OF MR. AND MRS. WILSON

Please find enclosed an objection on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson in relation to the proposed safeguarding of land for a bypass for Southern Abingdon, as stated in Policy TRANS3 and its supporting text; and as shown on the plan included at Appendix 5 (page 266).

This objection includes a completed response form, a Statement of the objection itself (by Barton Willmore and transport consultancy Motion), an accompanying Transport Statement and a Landscape and Visual Statement.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have submitted objections to previous stages of the Local Plan process and in relation to the Vale of White Horse Local Plan expressing their serious concerns over the ongoing safeguarding of proposed line of the bypass for Southern Abingdon.

As previously stated in their objections, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson remain wholly unconvinced of the need for the safeguarding of this route. It has not been demonstrated that a Southern Bypass will be required for Abingdon during this Plan period or the next.

Furthermore, and frustratingly, there appears to be no evidence to state as to whether the proposed safeguarding has come at the request of the District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council or the County Council. In view of this, and aside from their request for the proposal to be removed from the Local Plan, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson request clarification as to who has requested this safeguarding and why.

A key aspect of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson's objection is that it is considered highly questionable as to whether such a bypass is capable of being delivered. There appears to be no evidence that the public sector would or could fund it; or that the private sector would fund it as it would require the bypass to be built alongside the delivery of a very large urban extension to the south of Abingdon. The likelihood of there being a large urban extension to the south of Abingdon also appears to be very unlikely given that: the direction of growth of the town is to the north; there is a lack of sufficient



unconstrained land to the south of the town which could be built upon to deliver the numbers of dwellings that would be required; and that there is also a swathe of land to the south of the town which is safeguarded for works relating to the reservoir proposal which would further constrain the amount of land which could be built on in order to fund any such road.

Furthermore, it is questionable as to whether a bypass will ever be needed in order to address perceived traffic issues in Abingdon. In this regard, the above objections are reinforced through the current consultation being undertaken by Oxfordshire County Council on improving transport for Didcot and the surrounding area which will direct funding for transport schemes in the area to the A34 / Didcot / Culham / A4074 corridor. This change in the direction of growth and infrastructure delivery would, in effect, create an alternative route to the A415 to the south of Abingdon thereby providing a bypass of Abingdon to the south with respect to through traffic; and facilitate the delivery of and connect major planned and committed developments including over 10,000 new homes at Didcot and Culham science park.

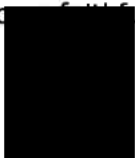
Instead, traffic management measures or other transport works should be considered as a more appropriate solution and should be investigated.

It is requested that the LPA work with Oxfordshire County Council to gain a better understanding of what is actually required in terms of works to address traffic and transportation issues in Abingdon. Simply leaving this proposal in the Local Plan without any detailed justification for it is a major cause for concern and worry for Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and also their neighbours in Culham.

We hope that this objection and the points we have raised on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Wilson will be given demonstrable and serious consideration by the LPA and that our proposed changes to the Local Plan will be made.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



NEVILLE SURTEES

Associate

Encs.

cc. Mr. G. and Mrs. S. Wilson
J. Russell (Motion)