
From: Paddy Roche
Sent: 22 November 2017 15:21
To: Planning Policy Vale
Cc:
Subject: Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part 2 - consultation response.

We write, as residents of Sunningwell Village where we have lived for 20 years, in relation to the proposed safeguarding of land in Sunningwell Parish for bus and cycleways and the Park and Ride as outlined in the Vale Local Plan Part 2.

Our principal concerns in relation to the plan concern policy areas 8a/b and 12a and we would urge that serious consideration should be given to relocating the proposed Lodge Hill Park and Ride to the nearby A34/A415 junction as that location would appear to create far better sustainability outcomes for the greatest number of potential users. This revised location would create a transport hub not only for those travelling north to Oxford but also commuters going south to Milton Park and Harwell and those seeking to get to Abingdon. Commuters travelling to central and north Abingdon are already serviced by the premium X3 bus service. We find it difficult to understand how moving the Park and Ride to Marcham is a less attractive or less pragmatic option than the existing proposal given the number of routes available to motorists from that site.

Of even greater significance - consequent on the apparent need under the current proposal to provide a direct public transport/cycleway link from Dalton Barracks to the proposed Lodge Hill Park and Ride site - is the safeguarding of delightful Green Belt land which currently provides the rural setting to Sunningwell Village. The safeguarding routes in part run very close to the village and cross existing and valued rights of way. Both the parcels of land identified run across highly visible open land and neither parcel is remotely appropriate for this sort of development. In short it would represent a huge and only too obvious destruction of a particularly sensitive and attractive parcel of the Green Belt - the notion of such a development going forward is wholly abhorrent. The Vale's own report by Hankinson Duckett Associates states, accurately, that both parcels of land have "a high contribution to at least one of the Green Belt Purposes. None of the parcels are suitable for development in landscape and visual terms and development within any of these parcels **would harm the openness and integrity of the Green Belt.**"

The safeguarding proposals for both the Park and Ride and the associated public transport links as shown are premature, unnecessary, ill conceived and illogical due to:-

- a- uncertainty of future development of the Dalton Barracks site beyond 2031.
- b- uncertainty of the long term appropriateness of the OCC Local Transport Plan which proposes the "remote Park and Ride strategy" including Lodge Hill due to the potential impacts of the OxCam Expressway proposals (if a south of Oxford Expressway is created, with the intention of freeing up the ring road the current Park and Rides will continue to be viable and the outer Park and Rides may not be necessary).
- c- existing planning protection due to Green Belt status of the land concerned
- d- absence of funding for the outer Park and Ride sites
- e- absence of funding for the proposed A34 bus lane
- f- absence of funding for the cycleway/bus lanes in Sunningwell Parish
- g- uncertainty of the route's commercial viability
- h- probability of the route's detrimental impact on the existing 4/4B service
- i- poor route choices with parts of the route being safeguarded unnecessarily
- j- failure to engage with landowners and the local community
- k- failure to examine viable alternative options which could include:-
 - i) further enhancements to the existing bus service provision

ii) routing dedicated "hopper" buses by the existing road network allowing sustainable access to the Park and Ride for a larger population.

iii) alternative safeguarding of routes that would provide segregated cycleway provision along the Wootton Road and increased access by foot and cycle from the North Abingdon site allocation.

Finally we are very concerned at the likely traffic impact on Sunningwell Village of the developments proposed at Dalton Barracks and the Lodge Hill Park and Ride which will inevitably result in a substantial increase in private motorists using the Sunningwell Road through the village as a "rat run" from Dalton Barracks to the A34, various local private schools such as Chandlings and by motorists driving into Oxford. No consideration at all appears to have been given to the inevitable increase in the volume of traffic through Sunningwell Village utilising a wholly inadequate and unsuitable road system which is likely to result in accidents and even loss of lives.

We therefore support and wholly endorse the consultation responses already lodged by SPADE and Sunningwell Parish Council.

Finally for all of the reasons set out above we object to the safeguarding of the land in Sunningwell Parish for bus and cycleways and the Park and Ride because it is unsound. They should be removed from the plan and any future plans should not be brought forward without comprehensive engagement with the local community and landowners.

Paddy and Jan Roche