

Comment

Consultee	Mr Francis Walsh (756099)
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Address	Samadhi Wantage OX12 7HP
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr Francis Walsh
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Response Date	22/01/15 17:00
Consultation Point	Core Policy 12: Safeguarding of Land for Strategic Highway Improvements within the Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.2
Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant?	No
Q2 Do you consider the Local Plan is Sound (positively prepared, effective and Justified)	No
If your comment(s) relate to a specific site within a core policy please select this from the drop down list.	N/A

Q4 Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

There is mention of A417 corridor improvements but with no detail provided. Previous questions submitted to the Council have indicated that the Highways Authority will not put roundabouts at the junctions of the villages south of the A417 as they would interfere with the flow of the traffic along the A417. Changing the roundabout at Rowstock and the junction at Featherbed Lanewill do nothing for those residents in villages to the south of the A417 (Hendreds, Ardington, Lockinge and Ginge) who have to wait many minutes to access the A417 during busy periods. Again the delay time for such residents will only increase as new housing units are constructed in the Wantage

area.

I believe a traffic survey was conducted by W. Hendred Parish Council some 16 years ago (apparently the County Council declined to do a survey). The survey determined that the traffic volumes were 230 vehicle movements at the peak against the road being rated at 180. Nothing has been done to improve the road capacity and that there are now 600 less jobs in Wantage and some 1200 more houses and an increase in the number of cars.

Whilst there are much needed changes and additions to slip roads for the A34 there is nothing in the plan to address the basic capacity of the A34. The MPs from both Wantage and Abingdon are on record as saying that this major highway is in need of expansion. Given the apparent expansion of employers in the Science Vale the A34 will become even more of a bottleneck. Indeed recent experience of the impact of the A34 being closed as a result of accidents shows the dramatic effect this has on the road network in the surrounding towns and villages. When traffic is diverted from the M4 for any reason through Wantage the town almost grinds to a halt. On such occasions trying to get in or out of Wantage has taken hours.