

Comment

Consultee	Mr Ken Oliver (872112)
Email Address	
Company / Organisation	Wiltshire Swindon & Oxfordshire Canal Partnership
Address	Wiltshire Council Monkton Park Chippenham SN15 1ER
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Wiltshire Swindon & Oxfordshire Canal Partnership (Mr Ken Oliver)
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Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant? Yes

Q2 Do you consider the Local Plan is Sound (positively prepared, effective and Justified) Yes

If your comment(s) relate to a specific site within a core policy please select this from the drop down list. N/A

If you think your comment relates to the DtC, this is about how we have worked with the Duty to Cooperate bodies (such as neighbouring planning authorities)

Q3 Do you consider the Local Plan complies with the Duty to Co-operate? No

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.

Wilts & Berks Canal Policy 6.123 6.124

The Wiltshire Swindon & Oxfordshire Canal Partnership (Partnership) notes that the route of the restored Wilts & Berks Canal lies within two other Local Authority areas (Wiltshire and Swindon). The route has been protected in their Core Strategy and Local Plan respectively.

Therefore the VWHDC is considered to be under a duty to co-operate in order to protect the route in the VWHDC area. This is essential to allow a contiguous route for full 52 miles of the main line of the Wilts & Berks Canal restoration. Approximately 40% of the canal is in the VWHDC area.

Q5 Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the test you have identified above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Wilts & Berks Canal Policy 6.123 6.124

Ideally the Partnership would prefer that VWHDC reverted to previous published policy (original reference 6.139) however the Partnership will work with VWHDC and all landowners to demonstrate how the waterway can be restored within the time-frame of the VWHDC Local Plan.

Therefore the Partnership in co-operation with Wilts & Berks Canal Trust (WBCT) provide the further information required to demonstrate sustainable delivery of the Wilts & Berks Canal in order to develop a suitable policy for Part 2 of the Local Plan.

In this respect the Partnership and WBCT seek further opportunities to assist the production of a deliverable MasterPlan for the relevant part canal in co-operation with VWHDC.

The Partnership seeks assurance from VWHDC that the saved Local Plan Policies (L14 & L15) are to be given full recognition within the Part 1 Plan in the interim period until a new policy is developed for Part 2?

Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.

After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

Q6 If your representation is seeking a modification, Yes - I wish to participate at the oral examination do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination?

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.

Q7 If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

The proposed restoration of the Wilts & Berks Canal is a major infrastructure project supported by the members of the Partnership which has been planned over a number of years. The project is actively supported by the Canal & River Trust. There are many issues and facts about scheme that may be relevant to bring to the attention of the inspector including the social, economic, environmental and leisure benefits of the restored waterway.

Please upload any supporting information

Infrastructure delivery programme Oxfordshire