

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr Brian Stovold
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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.

I write as local Chairman of the East Vale branch of the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust, covering the area from Childrey through to Abingdon.

My understanding is that as the route of the to be restored Wilts & Berks Canal lies within two other council areas ie Wiltshire Unitary and Swindon Borough in which the canal route has been protected in their own core strategies and Local Plans that my own local authority ie the Vale of White horse is considered to be under a duty to co-operate with them in protecting the ENTIRE length of the historic route of the canal. This is important in order to achieve an eventual continuous line from east to west. The Vale contains some 40% of the historic line ie from the River Cole aqueduct adjacent to the A420 (where the plan is to route the new canal around Swindon) through to the River Thames at Abingdon.

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.

Revert to previous wording of Policy.

However as a Director of the Trust I would be happy for a reassurance that the current saved Local Plan Policies L14 and L15 continue to be given full recognition in the interim period and that co-operation between the Canal Trust, the Wiltshire, Swindon and Oxfordshire Canal Partnership (of which the VWHDC is a member) is established to work towards a deliverable Masterplan for the canal restoration.

However, I understand the constraints the District Council is working under and therefore I can state that the Trust of which I am a member/Director will work to provide the further information required under the amendment proposed by the VWHDC and the required studies in order to fully develop the final Part 2 version including landowners

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, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination? Yes - I wish to participate at the oral 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:

I have worked on this project for many years. We have hundreds of Trust members in the Vale supporting restoration of the canal seeing it as of great leisure, recreation and economic and environmental benefit to the growing population of the Vale. I receive many compliments about the work we have undertaken. The scheme has national strategic importance as well as local benefits and I believe these opportunities and issues should be aired at the public inspection.