

80 Farm Road
Abingdon
Oxon
OX14 1NA

2 April 2014

Dear Sirs

Re: Proposed North Abingdon & North West Abingdon Developments at Abingdon-on-Thames

I am writing to object to the proposed plan to build houses on the above development sites. I cannot necessarily put forward “constructive” objections, or quote statistics on all matter of topics relevant to the project, however I feel not to object at all gives VWHDC the “green light” to proceed at any cost, which should not be the case.

Whilst I am aware of all the local developments, my comments will relate most specifically to the 610 houses proposed in North Abingdon – and no, I am not wearing my “NIMBY” hat either as this is the closest development to my home!

One of my “fears” is that however much VWHDC have advertised these proposed developments, I believe a large majority of local people are not aware of these plans, or the extent of them. Much of my knowledge on this, and many other projects etc to do with Abingdon, is gleaned from Backstreeter’s Abingdon Blog website. I am sure most people will only realise what is happening when the first “clods of soil” are turned, when their objections (again, probably unvoiced to VWHDC) are too late.

People need “green spaces” for their general health and well being. You may argue that “green spaces” are available close by, with, for example, the Abbey Meadows, Albert Park etc, but with people today having such busy lifestyles, it is not always easy to find/make time to visit these places; people however do like to see open spaces as part of their daily life. Certainly, the proposed 410 houses by Tilsley Park will destroy this “green space”, which is used by many as part of their daily lives (cycling, dog walking, walking for pleasure in the pleasant surroundings etc).

I understand that 200 houses are to be built on the piece of land near the A34 by Long Tow. For starters, I cannot comprehend exactly how 200 houses will fit into what appears to be such a small piece of land, they must be of “shoebox” proportions! Also, how can you make such a piece of land with its close proximity to the A34 sound attractive for home buyers? Put your “personal” hats on now if you will, would you want your garden to end at the bottom of the A34 embankment with all the traffic that uses this road on a daily basis? Would you...really?? This is without all the other issues that occur on the A34 – accidents anywhere within the

local area which put the A34 at a standstill on that particular stretch (and beyond) regularly, and it would appear on a Friday afternoon on an almost weekly basis! These issues then bring further problems with vehicle fumes passing across the proposed development site as well as the general noise of this road at all times of the day/night. I can't imagine people being able to enjoy their living surroundings because of this - where I live we hear the A34 frequently and we don't live "underneath" it!

All these houses do of course bring with them more traffic. With 1520 houses being proposed in North Abingdon alone, with a possible two cars to each property, this could mean another 3000+ cars on the local roads, which are already unable to cope with the amount of traffic that use these on a daily basis. The regular tailbacks on the A34 referred to above very quickly put Abingdon at a standstill, to Copenhagen Drive, Marcham Road and up to the town centre, and Drayton Road. Most of these roads are busy anyway at most times of the day (for example, every morning on my way to work, before 8 a.m. and the "school run" traffic). The roads in Abingdon were not helped by the ABITS scheme, which turned a town centre with generally free-flowing traffic into a town whereby you sit in a traffic jam for quite a considerable time whatever time you want to visit or drive through it.

More specifically, the pedestrian crossing which is currently being built at Dunmore Road was to be part of the proposed scheme if these developments got the go ahead so how come this has been put in place before the consultation period has ended and any house has possibly been built? More importantly, the location of this crossing is to be questioned, it being in close proximity to the roundabout. Its location is "fine" coming down the Dunmore Road as you are aware of the crossing in advance, but coming across the roundabout from Copenhagen Drive, you are unaware of the crossing until you are virtually on top of it. How many accidents will we see with people being unable to exit the roundabout at Dunmore Road due to the tailback of cars at the crossing and people travelling across the roundabout from the Wootton Road? I can already hear you saying that people travelling from Wootton should be more aware of the road and the Highway Code etc, but this is real life – it doesn't happen! From a pedestrian point of view, coming up the Wootton Road from Abingdon, this crossing does not actually lead anywhere specific, other than to a small piece of pavement where you have to cross the two main carriageways of the Wootton Road to be able to walk the pavement to Long Tow. Perhaps the more logical place to have put it (if needed at all) is the Copenhagen Drive side, which gives a "straight" path from Abingdon up the Wootton Road and to the various locations beyond.

My comments above also do not take into account the fact that, before the lights have even been switched on, this has turned the Dunmore Road exit into another traffic "pinch point" with it having now been narrowed to one lane (even early morning, as mentioned earlier). How will another possible 3000+ cars improve this traffic situation? Also, the cost implications of what was possibly one of the least-potholed roads around the county which they have now re-surfaced? I know this money was probably allocated from a "different budget", but with the large deficit in the budget to resurface the county's roads (which are atrocious in places!), surely some of "Peter's budget could be robbed to pay Paul"?

In making your decision on these proposed developments, I would ask you to give as much consideration (if not more) to the “human” aspects of the project (how it will impact on peoples’ health, welfare and lives in the locality as it stands) as you do all other parts of the proposal.

Finally, I reiterate my first point. Whilst I may be “vocal” on local matters, I am not normally a person who would put “pen to paper” on such an issue; as I said earlier, because I do not necessarily have the “constructive argument” to put forward or be considered. However, if people do not stand up at times and be counted, their livelihoods can be spoilt forever. So, my letter “from the heart”. This proposed development will more than likely be the start of the “end of the greenbelt” in our local area, which can never be recovered.

Please, my request would be to reject these proposals.

Yours faithfully

Carol Moodey