

Councillor Liz Leffman  
Leader  
Oxfordshire County Council

**Councillor Emily Smith**  
Leader of the Council

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Dear Liz,

I wanted to follow up on the discussion about the Lodge Hill slips that we had at our recent bi-lateral meeting and ask for confirmation that the scheme remains fully funded and is progressing.

Lodge Hill has long been promised, it not only makes the A34 safer, but supports and enables development of important local plan sites, including homes in Vale that contribute to Oxford's unmet need. The A34 slips are crucial for solving the transport pressures arising from over 2,860 planned homes, encompassing the four local plan allocations at Northwest of Radley, Northwest of Abingdon, North of Abingdon, and South of Kennington, as well as the Dalton Barracks Garden Village. Adding south bound slips will help alleviate traffic in central Abingdon, which suffers from congestion and is designated as an Air Quality Management Area. Local residents expect and will demand the delivery of the slips. County first confirmed it was fully funded in 2017 and I have personally been reassured on many occasions this is the case but I am concerned about comments made by council officers in recent weeks that this may no longer be the case.

To fail to deliver the slips would be to renege on the mitigation required to accompany development in the Vale. It would stop occupation of homes because of the Grampian condition which OCC specially requested, to limit occupation of homes until the A34 improvement contract is let by OCC. We could be in the disastrous situation of new build homes in Oxfordshire lying empty because of non-delivery of this vital infrastructure, and additionally bring a grinding halt to wider development (which includes a new school and other community facilities). Failure to build the southern slips would put our Vale 5-year housing land supply at risk in future, to the detriment of residents and to the detriment of additional funding via s106.

Please can you confirm that the County Council will deliver the Lodge Hill scheme as planned.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Emily Smith  
Leader of the Council

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