

Wiltshire Council

Council

20 October 2020

From Councillor Clare Cape, Chippenham Pewsham

To Councillor Philip Whitehead, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications

Question 20-29

It is well recognised locally that there will be significant disbenefits in terms of climate and ecological damage. And yet it seems that it is 'too early' in the process to identify and appraise these, even though Philip Whitehead acknowledged at Cabinet on 13 October that it was right to draw attention to the question of environmental impact. So here is a starter for ten: increased carbon emissions; loss of local amenity including a large tract of unspoiled green space, river landscapes and productive agricultural land; potential increased flood risk; damage to the Chippenham / Calne cycle route; and damage to the repaired Pewsham section of the canal. The Marden and Avon valleys are valued for their biodiversity; this area will be significantly encroached on by the road and housing. Surrounding Parishes such as Bremhill and Derry Hill told us in the Chippenham Neighbourhood Plan early consultation that they want to see the 'green buffer' between Chippenham and these villages retained. Are any of these disbenefits mentioned in the case for the HIF or is the case biased in favour of this huge development?

Response:

The debate about environmental impact will rightly take place when there are development proposals. The current position concerns securing funding for infrastructure should development come forward.