

Salisbury Junction Improvements – Harnham Neighbourhood Association Comments

Noises from government indicate a more sensitive planning approach and not just a numbers game

Use of good grade agricultural land for housing development is to be a no. Brownfield sites preferred and infrastructure capacity a limiting measurement.

HNA has written to Michael Gove concerning outline applications South of the river which fly in the face of the new thinking. Consultation by Wiltshire Council following funding for the two Harnham roundabouts is welcomed. The abandonment of a proposed slip road alongside the Close at the Exeter St junction, following strong objection indicates that the lesson of the cycle lanes has been learned and better consultation deserves credit. Long may it continue.

An existing underpass exists at the Exeter St. roundabout. In winter it suffers from flood and the clearance is minimal. It indicates that thinking is restricted to 2 roundabouts.

A problem also exists on the inner exit lane over Newbridge. A walkway is guarded with very high concrete edgings which motorists suddenly notice and then veer toward the second lane. It is dangerous and in 2 months, I have been within inches of being knocked into oncoming traffic.

The lanes connecting the two roundabouts are narrow. Locals also know the problem for the ambulance service struggling through traffic and not just at peak times.

In the consultation response to the junction consultation by the HNA we expressed concern that increased traffic occasioned by 1,000 developer houses could endanger those desperately ill and injured reaching A & E in time. It is not unresolvable but requires a mindset which considers the junctions in a more wholistic way. The flooding problem and the lack of lane width could be resolved by removing the walkway.

A bund to protect the pathway would allow the height below the bridge to be resolved by lowering the path by a few centimetres. The dirt path track could be served by a new and low-cost pedestrian bridge part of the answer to creating the hospital – city centre cycle /pedestrian footway that is part of the plan for the expanded and reconstructed hospital and the university Life science Faculty that the Porton arm of the project has funds for.

The gyratory is problematic and a wider connection could help with minimising the use of expensive traffic lights. The current pedestrian route is tortuous and slows traffic flow.

Into this will come expanded hospital traffic. We have to decide whether we want good infrastructure to the hospital or expensive developer housing.

I personally have been seriously ill with pneumonia and covid observing how much things are in desperate need of improvement. The hospital needs to recruit staff and it faces competition from well-equipped hospitals: Southampton University, Bournemouth and Winchester.

Applicants will not be attracted by a rundown aged hospital (there are excellent plans to deal with this). Planning will tend to restrict consultation to the site at the exclusion of Infrastructure serving it. Councillors, citizens we must make representations that this should not happen. The bottom line is not dealing with developers but a front-line hospital to protect us against the likes of Novichok and Pandemic. Our hospital needs you. You, I would suggest more than anything need your hospital.

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