

Dear Sir,

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON NETHERHAMPTON ROAD

In the normal world, any study leading to a plan would consider all the available options. The authors of the Wiltshire Site Allocation Study ruled out all options except placing most of the proposed development in the principal settlements. On this point alone, the results of the study should be rejected and Wiltshire Council instructed to go and do the job properly. Whilst I am well aware that this comment is likely to be ignored, it is germane to what follows.

I understand that the proposal to build 850 houses, mainly to the south of Netherhampton Road attracted more comment from the public – most of it negative - than anything else in the Site Allocation Plan. I went to the exhibition organised by Bovis to inform the public about their plans for a new community on Netherhampton Road. This would be self-contained with a new school, shop and recreation space. I attended late in the day and noted from the map at the sign-in desk that most visitors had been from Harnham. Bovis' staff freely admitted that the proposal was pretty unpopular and cited traffic congestion on Netherhampton Road as the main issue. I would therefore be grateful if in considering the part of the Site Allocation Plan for Netherhampton Road, you would take the following points into consideration.

The Wiltshire Site Allocation Study was constrained to allocating sites within the principal settlements. The proposal to build a new community on a greenfield site half way between Wilton and Salisbury clearly falls outside that remit. It should be rejected.

That there is a need for a new school in the Harnham area is not in dispute. Putting the school in the proposed development on Netherhampton Road gives the planners an easy way out. The difficulty is that this puts the new school in the wrong place. The new school is needed in East Harnham, preferably to the east of the A354 between Harnham and Britford. This might reduce the traffic through the Harnham Gyratory. Putting the school where the Plan proposes will certainly make a bad traffic situation worse.

Netherhampton Road and the Harnham Gyratory are already at capacity. Long delays can occur at the Gyratory at almost any time of day. It should be noted that most of the traffic for the District Hospital and the Ambulance Station must pass through the Gyratory. Long delays at this choke point are not a good idea. This proposal for 850 new homes with of the order of 1000 additional cars plus the additional peak time traffic the school will generate should not be allowed to proceed unless and until the road system has been improved to provide the necessary additional capacity.

I am currently the Treasurer of the Harnham Neighbourhood Association, an institution which has been in existence for some 50 years. Whilst I write as a private individual you should be aware that the views set out in this letter are fully supported by the Association.

Yours faithfully

W ROPER