

## **Written Statement – 16<sup>th</sup> April Hearing – Mrs D Paris (1110188)**

Thank you for alerting me to the fact that the Inspector will be holding Hearing Sessions in respect of the sites withdrawn from the Allocations Plan.

I must confess that I can't really remember what the comments were which I submitted to you rather a long time ago, but I would like to put on record that I fully support the decision not to proceed with these sites. The 'physiognomy' of Market Lavington, its main street lined with cars because so few of the houses which are positioned along it have garages or parking places, means that the addition of any more dwellings/people/cars using it regularly would add an intolerable burden. There would need to be a ring road for it be able to accommodate a bigger population comfortably.

I studiously avoid driving along the High Street at peak times, and when schools begin and end their day, but I have twice, in the last couple of months, been held up for long periods, once on a Sunday evening en route to a concert, when a First bus barged along the High Street refusing to give way to anybody, the second at 7pm on a Tuesday when I finished my library volunteering duties and came out to find a tractor towing a trailer stuck, with a massive queue of cars in front and behind. The daily (twice daily?) arrival of the huge Co-op lorry, and its attempt to manoeuvre backwards into the Market Place in order to replenish the store, is another cause of congestion, and can lead to long delays, depending on the skill of the particular driver at reversing into a very tight space. What would happen if there were an emergency when one of these blockages had occurred is a cause for great concern.

A neighbour of mine in my little lane, about a mile to the east of Market Lavington (Eastcott), decided to move after less than a year of living here, even though she loved everything else about it, precisely because of the stress involved in having to take her children back and forth to school via the High Street.

Market Lavington has already, long ago, when planning was perhaps in its infancy or did not exist at all, expanded far, far too much in both directions, there are now hardly any 'buffers' between it and the villages immediately to the east and west. The view from up on the Plain, where I walk my dogs, is of what looks like a large metropolis, ribbon development blighting what, otherwise, would be fine views.

I do hope that the Inspector will take into account the discomfiture of existing residents in his deliberations. I have lived at my house for over forty years, and have seen driving conditions deteriorate horribly over that time. I am lucky in that I can mostly choose my times, and avoid Market Lavington completely by going a longer way round, but others are not so fortunate.

I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to expand on my previous observations.