

CAVERSFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Mrs Jane Olds, Parish Clerk

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Response to Oxfordshire County Council's application reference R3.0094/21

Caversfield Parish Council met on 3 August to discuss the planning application reference R3.0094/21 at Land at existing roundabout junction of the B4100 Banbury Road and the A4095 Southwold Lane and the agricultural/open space adjacent to it, Bicester, Oxfordshire for "The redevelopment of the existing Banbury Road roundabout at the junction of the B4100 and the A4095. The revised junction will comprise a signalised four arm crossroad junction with three and two lane entries and improved cycle and pedestrian facilities"

The Council wished to object to the proposals on the following grounds:

- Access to the Fringford Road
- Impact on surrounding roads
- North Bicester Traffic Infrastructure
- Traffic volumes

Fringford Road Access

Of primary concern to the Council was the access to the Fringford Road from the south. This must be included in the current proposals and should not be an afterthought.

With the removal of the roundabout, access from the local centre in Southwold, northbound up the Fringford Road will be impossible for local villagers and those travelling to villages beyond who currently use Fringford Road. This will necessitate the use of either Skimmingdish Lane or Thompson Drive or the more dangerous right junction at Aunt Em's Lane and may encourage rat running through the village. None of which are satisfactory.

Traffic volumes

Concerns were raised about the volumes of traffic which would be using the junction as a whole and whether it would actually be fit for purpose for the next 20 years.

North Bicester Traffic Infrastructure

Concern was raised about the impact of the proposals on the infrastructure covering the whole of the northern Bicester area from the Howes Lane re-alignment to the

Buckingham Road roundabout junction. It was felt at the presentation given by OCC on 24 March that consideration had not been given to the wider area – and this has still not been demonstrated. Lessons must be learnt from both the Rodney House roundabout and the Vendee Drive roundabout issues, both of which appeared to be designed in isolation without any apparent regard for the surrounding infrastructure or needs. It has not been demonstrated that this current proposal has taken previous history into account.

Impact on Surrounding Roads

Another concern was to ensure that the surrounding roads are not used as rat runs.

As stated at the consultation phase, Aunt Em's Lane is a very narrow, rural road which is not suitable for heavy traffic and is also difficult to exit. The Caversfield section of Skimmingdish Lane is a residential road, which again, is not suitable for through traffic. As mentioned above, closure or restrictions to the Fringford Road would affect Aunt Em's Lane and Skimmingdish Lane to the detriment of both.

Additionally

It has been noted that the OCC's Footpath team have highlighted the issue of the bridleway from Fringford Road to the Banbury Road. If this could be enhanced for pedestrian and cycle use it would be of great benefit to the village.

I hope that this is of assistance to the Officers.