

**Wokingham Without Parish Council's comments on the SWDR application - 192928**

192928	Land South of Wokingham, East of Finchampstead Road, and West of Waterloo Road, Wokingham.	Full planning application for the construction of the South Wokingham Distributor Road (SWDR) and associated works between Finchampstead Road and Waterloo Road.
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**Comments:**

<p>The main congestion currently occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) At the Nine Mile Ride/Heathlands Road traffic lights during morning and evening busy periods.</li> <li>b) At the Heathlands Road/Easthampstead Road junction but primarily the northbound traffic.</li> <li>c) At the Waterloo Road/Easthampstead junction due to northbound traffic turning right into Waterloo Road.</li> <li>d) At the junction of Old Wokingham Road and Nine Mile Ride during the evening peak period where southbound traffic on Old Wokingham Road usually backs up beyond the Easthampstead Road junction.</li> </ul>
<p>(b) and (c) are greatly exacerbated by the railway level crossing on the Easthampstead Road which will become worse as the frequency of rail traffic increases.</p> <p>Given that we are not going to get a bridge over Starlane Crossing, which would alleviate the congestion at peak times. Traffic lights at the junction of EH Road and the "SD Road" would need to be timed in sequence with the railway crossing.</p> <p>With regard to Honey Hill Lane, the lane does not need any traffic calming measures. The winding, narrow nature of the lane already effectively calms traffic. It would be wrong to try and discourage traffic from using Honey Hill as an alternative to Easthampstead Road. It makes sense to try and spread the traffic along all available routes rather than try to force them to stick to one route which then becomes even more congested.</p> <p>There is much concern regarding the likely growth of traffic on Heathlands Road and Nine Mile Ride going to and from the SWDR. We would question why it has been deemed that "no mitigation" is necessary for this particular junction. WWPC notes that Wokingham Borough Council's own planning documentation states that the South Wokingham development should be 'nil detriment'. With this in mind how can there be no mitigation for the Heathlands Road/Nine Mile Ride junction when congestion of such magnitude is forecast.</p>

PLANNING REF : 192928  
PROPERTY ADDRESS : The Lodge  
: Pinewood Leisure Centre, Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Wokingham, RG40 3AQ  
SUBMITTED BY : Wokingham Without Parish Council  
DATE SUBMITTED : 03/03/2020

COMMENTS:

WWPC has significant concerns over the junction of the SWDR that will route vehicles onto Heathlands Road as an access towards southern routes. This rural road will struggle with a significant increase in traffic volumes, and no plans have been made to improve the traffic light junction at the end of Heathlands Road, where it adjoins Nine Mile Ride.

We would like to see better provision for pedestrians and cyclists at the Star Lane crossing particularly given that we anticipate secondary school children living within the South Wokingham SDL will be travelling across the railway to access schools. In order to encourage pupils to travel to school on foot or by cycle, and reduce the impact of school run traffic, this must be given greater consideration.

The lights at the junction of the Star Lane crossing must be phased with the railway barrier, to ensure that when the railway crossing is accessible, traffic is able to flow.

It is still unclear what the resolution is around the lowlevel railway bridge near Tesco and Eden Motors at the Western edge. Unless this is resolved, it is likely that larger lorries and vehicles will be routed back through Wokingham town centre, negating the 'bypass' benefits of the SWDR. Over time, this will encourage more traffic to route off the SWDR onto Heathlands Road.

Access routes into Ludgrove School and Gray's Farm sports hub are not defined on this plan.

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PROPERTY ADDRESS : The Lodge  
: Pinewood Leisure Centre, Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Woki  
: RG40 3AQ  
SUBMITTED BY : Wokingham Without Parish Council  
DATE SUBMITTED : 20/11/2020

COMMENTS:

Wokingham Without Parish Council have nothing further to add to our comments of 18th August and 6th March.

PLANNING REF : 192928  
PROPERTY ADDRESS : The Lodge  
: Pinewood Leisure Centre, Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Wokingham, RG40 3AQ  
SUBMITTED BY : Wokingham Without Parish Council  
DATE SUBMITTED : 13/02/2021

COMMENTS:

In addition to our comments submitted on 3rd March 2020 and 18th August 2020, WWPC request that WBC amend the application to include:

1. Detailed drawings of PRoW connections to existing byways and footpaths.
2. Drawings of PRoW connections to Grays Farm from the South.
3. Detailed design of a cyclewheelchair crossing over the railway.
4. Upgrades to the surfaces of connected footpaths so that they are usable in all weathers.

PLANNING REF : 192928  
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Town Hall  
: Market Place, Wokingham, Berkshire  
: RG40 1AS  
SUBMITTED BY : Wokingham Town Council  
DATE SUBMITTED : 16/12/2019

COMMENTS:

The Wokingham Town Council P&T Committee have no objections but seek clarity on the locations and details of crossing points. They would also like to see a separate cycle way along the route of the new road.

PLANNING REF : 192928  
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Town Hall Market Place  
: Wokingham  
: RG40 1AS  
SUBMITTED BY : The Wokingham Town Council P&T Committee  
DATE SUBMITTED : 12/11/2020

COMMENTS:

The Committee would like the additional comments added;

It has become clear that It fails to meet with the government's demand for better cycling infrastructure. Last time we asked for a separate cycling lane, ignored. There must be a separate cycling lane and the roundabouts need to be properly designed for cycling traffic (dutch roundabout).

There is also a requirement to have a place to safely walk horses along the route.

So, the following objections.

CP6 Managing Travel Demand

- a) sustainable forms of transport
- c) Improve existing infrastructure network
- e) adverse effects on transport network
- f) Enhance road safety
- g) highway or environmental problems

There are also safety concerns with large high sided lorries using the road and going through to roads with low bridges. Ideally there should be warnings for this added prior to the Tesco roundabout so there is awareness.

Finally as this will be a major road within Wokingham, the Committee would like to put forward a name for this road. Cllr Bob Wyatt was the longest serving Councillor at Wokingham Town Council. He was the Town Mayor and was the first Honorary Alderman in Wokingham Borough. The Committee propose that it be appropriate for the road be named after Cllr Bob Wyatt if possible.

PLANNING REF : 192928  
PROPERTY ADDRESS : Town Hall Market Place  
: Wokingham  
: RG40 1AS  
SUBMITTED BY : The Wokingham Town Council P&T Committee  
DATE SUBMITTED : 05/02/2021

COMMENTS:

There is concern that the Boardwalk being a timber construction could rot and be unsafe within a few years. Who will maintain this?

There should be separate cycle path from pedestrian walkway CP6

The previous comments that the Committee made on this application are still valid as follows.

CP6 Managing Travel Demand

- a. sustainable forms of transport
- c) Improve existing infrastructure network
- e) adverse effects on transport network
- f) Enhance road safety
- g) highway or environmental problems

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