

18 December 2018

Dear Sir

Blandford plus Pre Submission Plan Consultation

I am writing from [redacted] which is outside the parish of Blandford, instead in the parish of Pimperne, but this property is affected by the (proposed) Plan and by being very near the junction of the A350/354, Hill Top Roundabout, I have personal knowledge, acquired over 30 plus years.

As pointed out by Dorset CPRE, in response to the request for a scoping opinion - 2/2018/1386/SCOELA, (new) housing provision is met without residential development outside ie east of the bypass.

I have seen it stated in submissions re the Plan that the bypass was completed in 1992. That is wrong: it was finished in the mid1980s. But whatever its age, the bypass was to relieve traffic congestion in the town. And it was situated so as to provide a limit to the town, with future development to be within the town's boundary as thereby set. Development outside of that limit, will breach that boundary.

Paragraph 3.7 of Blandford +Neighbourhood Plan 2015-2031 (of July 2016) concludes with

It [namely the 28 ha south of the A354 between Letton Park and Pimperne Brook/Black Lane] can be safely accessed from both the bypass A350/354 roundabout and by the A354 Salisbury Road and there are opportunities to establish a safe pedestrian and cycling crossing of the bypass to connect the development with Preetz Way.

I am sure that is factually incorrect. To achieve what is suggested will require either lights at Hill Top roundabout or a bridge over the bypass, or

both; or another roundabout on the bypass which, in fact, is what the would be developers envisage. I refer you to the Barton Willmore request for Scoping Report - 2/2018/1386/SCOEIA. It envisages that development of the land between Letton Park and Pimperne Brook/Black Lane would be accessed by a new roundabout between Hill Top roundabout and Two Gates roundabout.

In my view (and I have lived here at Bolney which is only 100 metres or so from the former roundabout for over 30 years so I know it well, both in particular and the bypass generally) this proposal is, these ideas are, daft:-

- * A bridge over the bypass would be an eye sore. (I appreciate there is a bridge over the bypass between Hill Top roundabout and that at Sunrise Business Park but by that bridge the ground level on both sides of the bypass is higher: that is not the case south of Hill Top roundabout.)

- *The A354 (to/from Salisbury) rises as it comes out of Pimperne, approaching Blandford, and the brow of the hill is at about the eastern limit of Letton Park. The result is a traffic hazard for those who live in Letton Park, both sides of the A354, and users of the A354. A few years ago there was fatal collision at/on that brow and I know there have been multiple concertina crashes as traffic from the east has collided with traffic queuing for the roundabout.

- * The bypass, apart from being such, is a nationally strategic road - between the Poole/ Bournemouth conurbation and Bristol and the M4. To impede that road with traffic lights and/or a further roundabout would be idiotic.

- * To put a collection of several hundred dwellings (even with a convenience store and other “amenities”) accessed by one road in and out, outside the town and separated from it and its facilities must be the epitome of bad town planning and sustainable development.

*I have seen it stated that any development of the land between Letton Park and Pimperne Brook/Black Lane would be “protected” by a bund 8m wide on the east side of the bypass. With such a slice subtracted, the remaining land of Blandford parish would be insufficient to finance the road etc works which would be required, unless some of Pimperne parish was taken and I understand that parish is against any such proposal.

I therefore urge that Blandford Plus Plan for 2015-2031 does not include development of the land between Letton Park and Pimperne Brook/Black Lane.

Yours faithfully

Town Clerk's Office, Church Lane DT11 7AD

