

The Link Road to Northway from New Barton

We are grateful of this opportunity to bring our views to the Full Council.

Despite your opinion to the contrary, we in Northway have had little or no consultation about the proposed link road with the new development at Barton, only gaining a voice on the Barton and Northway Working Group in September of this year.

Since we became aware of the proposed link road we have leafleted Northway estate several times and 190 leaflets voicing opposition to the link road and supporting a left in, left out from Barton on to the A40 were received. Consequently, we are very disappointed to see that these leaflets are referred to on page 303, paragraph 7 of the Submissions Document in such a misleading way; even going so far as to suggest that we support a link road and greater integration.

In our opinion this is a blatant untruth. As you know well, we have worked tirelessly to make the Council aware of the huge opposition to the link road into Northway but do not feel that you are listening to anything that is contrary to your plans. In our view you wilfully printed this untruth in an attempt to influence the Council's perception of Northway's strong feeling against the link road. How can you misconstrue our campaigning against the link and conclude that we are in favour of it?

In respect to the low response rate from Northway to the June 2011 Barton Area Action Plan we have found that most people in Northway did not receive a copy. Additionally, Mr Crofton Briggs has admitted to us that the title of the document, in his words, "might have been misleading as it did not mention Northway".

We are surprised to find a change in the designated area of development between the Barton Action Plans of June 2010 and June 2011. On page 3 of the 2010 action plan the map details the precise area for development and

Northway is mentioned in a throw-away comment but with no mention of a link road. The 2011 document continues to be called the Barton Area Action Plan but has been expanded to incorporate Northway and Old Headington within the development, presumably to alleviate the traffic problems that an expansion of Barton will pose.

Residents of Barton have previously shown no wish to integrate with Northway until they had to consider the extra traffic from the new development concluding that a link road through Northway would be best, without giving any consideration as to how the traffic would get out of Northway itself. Why are you even considering bringing buses from Barton through Northway? Barton already has a more than adequate service which could easily be extended through the development. Furthermore there is a perfectly viable alternative for bringing traffic on and off the by-pass via a left in, left out slip road onto the A40.

In your planning documents you strongly support the preservation of green space within Barton but intend to diminish the limited amount of green space that we have within Northway. It would require the felling of trees which provide a buffer to the exhaust fumes and continuous noise from the by-pass, bringing extra traffic into quiet residential roads, not intended for heavy traffic. This will cause increased pollution, danger to residents and their children and would be detrimental to our wellbeing and to the value of our houses. You place great emphasis on the new Barton development having safe, quiet and unpolluted roads for their children, whilst robbing our children of these very things.

According to the Core Strategy Proposal Map 2011 the green space of Foxwell Drive is protected as a sports and recreational green space and has the designation of SR2 and SR 5. The trees which constitute our noise and pollution buffer are protected by policies NE15 and NE16. Additionally, the Council for the Protection of Rural England have stated that it is a wildlife corridor. It is a valuable green asset to this estate and should not be expropriated by anyone.

With the new developments at Dora Carr Close, Westlands Drive and Ruskin Fields you are proposing to increase the traffic within Northway by 30%. Surely this is a big enough change without adding any more traffic.

We are advised that sewerage from the new development could cause a problem to our worn-out sewerage system. Presumably you are aware of the current sewerage problems including several serious leaks in Stockleys Road during the last few months?

In conclusion Northway is a very nice estate with little crime or vandalism. It is a good neighbourhood in which to live. Why do you wish to spoil it? You will just move the traffic congestion from one place to another. A new development in one place should not be to the detriment of another and we can see absolutely no benefit to Northway Estate.

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