

THE RT HON. ANDREA LEADSOM MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

CDC

04 MAR 2022

POST ROOM

Ms Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive, Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
Bodicote
Banbury OX15 4AA

1st March 2022

Dear Yvonne,

Application for planning development adjoining M40 Junction 10 Ref 21/03266/F

I write with reference to the above planning application, and in support of the comments made by Lord Boswell in his letter to you of February 19th.

Given the experience and thoughtfulness with which he speaks on local planning issues, particularly around Aynho, I would ask that the Council consider carefully the points made by Lord Boswell. In particular, he reflects the views of many residents who are concerned about the alarming increase in HGV movements in the area due to various proposed and existing developments which have a cumulative impact on local infrastructure and quality of life.

Lord Boswell makes the case strongly, and I would be grateful if the Council could undertake to work closely with West Northamptonshire Council's planning officers in an effort to mitigate the number and type of developments across the two county's borders.

With best wishes,

Encl.

Member of Parliament for South Northamptonshire

LORD BOSWELL OF AYNHO



19 February 2022

Ms Yvonne Rees,
Chief Executive, Cherwell District Council,
Bodicote House,
Bodicote,
BANBURY OX15 4AA

APPLICATION FOR PLANNING DEVELOPMENT ADJOINING M40

JUNCTION 10 Ref 21/03266/F

I wish to add my personal objection to this development, and to endorse the carefully-considered submission to that effect which you have received from Aynho Parish Council.

My family moved to Lower Aynho Grounds Farm Aynho in 1967. By way of registering my interest and involvement in the area, I should make clear that I served as the constituency Member of Parliament for Daventry (covering then most of the local authority areas of Daventry and South Northants and so including my own home at Aynho) from 1987 until my retirement and move to the Upper House in 2010. My successor as MP was Dame Andrea Leadsom, to whom I shall copy this as a courtesy. I should also properly declare that my oldest daughter Victoria Prentis is now the Constituency MP for Banbury, including the site of this proposed development; and as we are in almost daily contact, I am aware of her own objections to this proposal. Of my other two daughters, one lives on this farm; and the other is now living at Fewcott, which would be even more directly impacted by this adjacent large-scale development.



I might add by way of background that I was involved throughout in the evolution and progress of the M40 itself, as I was obliged to cope with the impact of the new road cutting directly across my farm for almost a one-mile stretch, and in making adaptations and mitigations to facilitate farm and local access, and in screening the line itself by judicious planting, which as it matures has certainly helped with the visual effects, although less with the noise impacts. Another factor is that the B4031 as it leaves Aynho along Station Road in the Deddington direction has our farm on its left side frontage for almost the whole distance from Aynho to the County Bridge at Clifton. Its alignment was heavily modified to accommodate M40 as it crossed, incidentally involving a very rare motorway overbridge, but after clearing the railway and canal bridges it remains relatively straight and narrow inviting quite high vehicular speeds but with imperfect visibility in the upper stretches towards Aynho near our farm egress (Miller's Lane), where I already have some concerns about safety. More generally, M40 was 'sold' locally as it was built on the argument that it would relieve local roads, rather than generate further traffic on them seeking access to its junctions.

I need not repeat the cogent arguments of Aynho Parish Council in their objection, but would add three comments of my own:

1. I note that a rather similar proposed development adjoining M3 at Basingstoke has recently been drastically scaled down and mitigated.
2. There is a strong feeling among Aynho residents, particularly those like myself who are now elderly, that there has already been an alarming growth in HGV and commercial traffic through the village and a number of accidents involving vehicles and sometimes pedestrians crossing the road, with several sharp curves quite unsuitable for HGVs; to which I would add my own concerns about road safety aspects affecting B4031 as well as B4100; and also that the existing roundabout at Baynards Green between B4100 and A43 leading southwards to Junction 10 is already congested and hazardous at peak hours.
3. More generally, as I see the impact of warehousing and related development at the Banbury M40 junction 11, and sense the pressure around the county boundary for further development, of which this is an example - there being also one at Nethercote - I feel that there is a case for some concertation of views between the LPAs of Cherwell and West Northants to take a strategic view of priorities to accommodate this pressure without doing irreparable damage to hitherto untouched sites. One military maxim I recall, as clearly do those seeking developments without sensitivity to local feeling, is that you should mount your attack wherever you have intelligence that your opponent has divided their structure of command. In this particular case we have already



experienced problems in consultation and communication across planning boundaries which are not conducive to effective and sensitive decision making.

I would be grateful if these representations could be taken into account.

Lord Boswell of Aynho

Lower Aynho Grounds, Aynho OX17 3BW

c.c. Rt Hon Dame Andrea Leadsom DBE MP ✓

Mrs Victoria Prentis MP

Aynho Parish Council