

Derwent Green Residents Group

27 Derwent Road
Bicester
OX26 2JA

4 February 2022

21/04275/OUT

Dear Sirs

The Derwent Green Residents Group has been campaigning for six years in support of the realignment of Howes Lane, and asking repeatedly for immediate action to reduce its use by HGV traffic by reducing the speed limit and introducing a 7.5 tonne weight restriction.

The campaign has been based on the urgent need to protect the health and well-being of our members whose houses back on to Howes Lane. Air and noise pollution (particularly at night) have increased to unacceptable levels: small children are afraid to play in back gardens, residents have changed bedrooms to the front of their home in the hope of better sleep.

In six years of campaigning there has been no action. There was the promise four years ago that funding had been obtained for the realignment, and we were encouraged that the railway tunnel was built last year. But in the past month the funding has been reallocated and there is currently no indication of when the realignment will take place.

That is why we are pleading that the Planning Committee absolutely insist on complete clarity that no construction traffic will be allowed to use Howes Lane. And every avenue should be explored to see what funding from S106 agreements and other sources can be brought forward to enable the realignment to be completed before construction commences.

It is ironic that it was the construction of Vendee Drive ahead of time to assist with the construction of Kingsmere – which proves infrastructure timetables can be altered and roads built at the beginning of the process – that resulted in the dramatic increase in HGV traffic on Howes Lane.

The transport and access document supplied as part of this application contains two statements that require immediate clarification and/or rewording:

Para 5.6.6 states *“As a large proportion of the construction traffic is anticipated to be heavy goods vehicles it is essential that residential areas are avoided during the course of construction by heavy goods vehicle drivers associated with the proposals. It is therefore*

Derwent Green Residents Group, formed 2015.

Chair: Stephen Rand

considered appropriate to have a lorry routing agreement to ensure drivers use the peripheral road/ A4095 and would be prohibited from passing through the centre of Bicester unless they are transporting locally sourced materials/goods. This would be included within the Construction Environmental Management Plan.” **This must be amended to state clearly that the Howes Lane section of the A4095 will not be used under any circumstances until the Howes Lane realignment has taken place.**

Para 5.6.7 states *“It is anticipated that over the life of the construction period, virtually all construction traffic for the Development would use the A41/Vendee Drive from the M40 Junction 9 and the A4421 around the eastern side of Bicester.”* **The mention of Vendee Drive is entirely superfluous and raises fears that it will be used by construction traffic that will then be obliged to use Howes Lane – the reference to Vendee Drive should be removed.**

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Stephen Rand
Chair