# Planning application by Dorchester Living Ltd for 1125 dwellings 18/00825/Hybrid

###### Alison Smith on behalf of Somerton PC C/O 2 Troy Cottage, Somerton, Bicester, OX25 6NG

Somerton PC would like to congratulate Dorchester Living on a very comprehensive Plan for Heyford Park. However we also have several concerns and that we hope you will be able to address.

**Firstly the exclusion of Somerton & Fritwell in any traffic calming measures;**  we are extremely disappointed not to be included in future traffic s106 funding. We already know development at HP is changing the nature of our rural villages and road networks. We are dismayed and astounded that we have been excluded when we were very clearly included in the last tranche of S106 funding. (Money we have struggled to extract from OCC)

Somerton has seen an increase in the traffic volumes since development of Heyford Park and the nature of the traffic is changing*. In 2000 there was an average of 248 vehicles a day growing to over 500 in 2006 and over 1000 a day in 2015. In 2017 30% of traffic through the village has been observed exceeding the current 30mph limit and up to 14% of vehicles were type OGVI/Bus/ 2,3,5,6,7,12: ie. Rigid 2 or 3 axle HGV, Bus or coach.*

*Sections of road in Somerton have no pavements, with high banks and walls there is no alternative place to walk, which make it dangerous to vulnerable road users; the walkers cyclist, horse riders. The roads are in a terrible state of repair, extra traffic to and from Dorchester does not help situation.*

The Ardley road Somerton, has seen a significant increase in traffic volumes with many vehicles speeding along this minor road. This road is narrow & unclassified, originally a small farm track, many vehicles travel at 60 mph & greater. Vulnerable road users are at risk & the amenity of this country road is being eroded by increasing volumes of traffic especially at peak times. 40mph should be the maximum speed along this road, S106 funding is needed to support this change. Many vehicles from HP choose a route through Somerton and Fritwell to avoid delays at the motorway (Jnc10), when travelling North on the A43, or even just to find a quicker route to the M40.

Somerton PC feel very strongly that s106 money should also be available for Somerton and Fritwell and to be included in rural traffic calming plans. We are keen to work with traffic consultants to find suitable solutions. Traffic issues will only get worse with further development on HP, especially as it becomes a destination for people living outside of the HP community, such as use of the Health Hub or leisure opportunities which are planned for the “wider neighbourhood to enjoy”. It is not right that the PC’s have to find funds through the precept and other means to calm traffic related to new developments

**Employment in hangars on the Northern side of the Park.** These hangars are very close to Village Farm Somerton and any development here would have a negative effect on this rural dwelling.Employment here would bring noise and light pollution, there should be restrictions as to what type of employment the hangers are used for, minimising activity to normal working hours.

**Filming industries;** Our main concerns with the use of the flying fields for filming are **noise and light pollution** during filming, also during the set-up and taking down, heavy traffic, loud generators and bright lighting. Previous filming activity has already demonstrated enormous affect on the rural nature of the adjacent area, i.e. dwellings adjacent to the northern perimeter. Excessive noise during shoots has already caused concerns for residents and horse owners; horses being spooked enough to jump out of their paddock. With regular filming, the potential for personal injury would be significantly increased. There are two farms in very close proximity that keep horses.

Excessive noise should be kept to a minimum; There should be liaison with ALL neighbouring dwellings with advanced warnings of excessive noise. There should be restrictions placed on filming activities, so that set up times and filming outside of normal working hours is kept to a minimum.

**Perimeter Road.** We would like to see this closed, it runs too close to the bridleway and Village Farm. Commercial traffic on this road causes concerns to safety.

**Bridleway.**  The bridleway improvements planned, should protect against miss use by motorised vehicles that causes erosion and are not compatible with horse riders and walkers. The barbed wire fencing is rusting away and falling onto the bridle way. This needs urgent attention as is already a potential hazard.

**Community Health Hub.** The PC fully supports the development of a community Health Hub on the Heyford Park site but would also like to note, that this would increase traffic volumes through surrounding villages including Somerton. We would like to see funding for transport for all surrounding villages.

**Bus Service.** While we support the planned bus services, we would like to see more to connect the surrounding villages, Somerton, Fritwell, North Aston etc. to HP.

**Strategic Planting and Noise Management.** We would like to see a lot more strategic planting along boundary fences to minimise noise and improve the visual appearance. To be effective this needs to be very dense, ideally this should be happening immediately as it will take time to get established. We also request that HP look at other measures to contain noise such as earth berms and sound walls. Existing planting outside of the northern perimeter on Troy Farm land should not be relied on for this purpose, this has no density and is not effective against noise pollution further measures on HP side are required.