

Miss C Cromer & Mr R Reeves
8 Penrose Gardens
Chesterton
Bicester
OX26 1DG

Mr A Lewis
Cherwell District Council
Bodicot House
Bodicot
Banbury
OX25 4AA

6th October 2020

Dear Mr Lewis,

Ref: Planning Application Case Ref: F/00825/HYBRID - DORSET LIVING

We are writing with great concern in regard to the planning application that is now reflected in the Dorchester Master Plan. As we are residents of Chesterton and walk along the A4095 with our twin 4years olds, to the local school every day, rain and shine.

We have experienced the following safety issues when using the only path through the village:

- Too narrow (especially with the pandemic and 2 meter rule with other parents passing).
- Large puddles accumulate on the sides of this road, which inevitably results in pedestrians (including children) getting soaked on the way to and from school.
- Safety concerns, as the road is supposed to be a 30mph limit, which drivers tend to ignore when rushing to work and puts vehicles at speed too close to pedestrians
- HGV's currently take the corner wide (to get around the corner) which is not safe with oncoming traffic, or HGV's coming both ways. There is no way of making the path wider due to homes either side.
- Houses along the road have deliveries or bin men block the road when doing their collections.
- The corner is blind, you cannot see oncoming traffic when turning left on to The Hale; with a 43% increase in traffic, the speed the vehicle drive through the village and pedestrians walking so close to the road, that is a hazard!
- with the Great Wolf Resort and the Rugby Club trying to appeal as well; how much traffic is this village supposed to contend with? When it currently isn't safe or fit for purpose and there are already other more suitable routes?
- The village isn't well lit, for how close the vehicles go to the pedestrians and in the winter months when it's darker in the mornings /evenings it is dangerous.

This raises our following questions/suggestions:

1. Why wasn't the infrastructure discussed / planned prior to building works starting on the site? It doesn't seem to have been considered before this point (which is too late).
2. There is a purpose built road from Junction 9 to Vendee Drive (Bicester Ring Road) that services these areas and traffic coming from the North and South. Surely HGV's should be directed to use those and not come through a tiny village with two awkward and tight corners, plus speed bumps and a traffic calming measure which was implemented for the locals safety.
3. Has anyone physically been to the village from the council (in peak times, which are x3 times a day. School drop off/ 8:30-9am, school pickup 3-3:30pm and 4:30-7pm rush hour) to see what the residents actually have to contend with?
4. I believe there should also be a 30mph(maximum) speed limit sign on The Hale; as people turn the corner from the village and speed up to 60 too early. Can this be done?

5. The proposal for the Dorchester Masterplan was submitted to our parish council too late, which appears underhanded as it directly impacts us in Chesterton Village.

I have attached some images for the route being discussed; but highly advise someone from the council who makes the final decision to come down and speak with residents/see the proposal area for themselves.



THIS IS ONLY A TRANSIT SIZE VEHICLE BUT DEMONSTRATED HOW CLOSE VEHICLES CAN GET TO PEDESTRIANS (INCLUDING CHILDREN). PLEASE NOT THE WATER POOLING AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD, THE WIDTH OF THE PATH AND IF THE CHILD WAS WALKING ALONGSIDE THIS ADULT TOO. (I BELIEVE THIS DRIVER WAS GOING SLOW BECAUSE I WAS FILMING) IT ALSO DEMONSTRATED THE LACK OF STREET LIGHTING IN AUTUMN. VISIBILITY WILL ONLY DECREASE IN WINTER MONTHS.



THIS LORRY IS ON THE WHITE LINES IN THE CENTRE OF THE ROAD. IF ANOTHER LORRY COMES THE OTHER WAY IT IS TIGHT TO SAY THE LEAST.



THE LORRY HAS TO GO ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ROAD TO OVER TAKE RESIDENTS VEHICLES. WHICH WILL STOP ON COMING TRAFFIC AND **COULD AFFECT EMERGENCY VEHICLES.**



PATHS ARE NOT WIDE ENOUGH AND OFTEN MEANS PEOPLE HAVE TO WALK ON THE ROAD TO ABIDE THE 2 METER RULE



WHEN BIN COLLECTIONS OR DELIVERIES COME THROUGH THE VILLAGE IT MAKES THE PATH EVEN MORE NARROW AND THE TRAFFIC WILL CAUSE MORE CONGESTION.

we haven't included an image of how blind the corner is to go on to The Hale or how the HGV's take the corner wide in to on coming traffic, just to navigate that corner. But if the council needs to see them we can get those too.

To summarise, we believe this road is already an accident waiting to happen in many areas and a 43% increase in traffic will most certainly add to chances of something detrimental happening to the safety of the people in the village.

There are other more suitable routes for the HGV's and other traffic to take that do not impede the safety of the village and other drivers.

Yours faithfully

Charlotte & Robin
[REDACTED]