

Claire James

From: Edward Hayter <edward.hayter@draytonstleonard.org.uk>
Sent: 30 September 2023 09:48
To: Palmer, Leanne
Cc: Cassie Pinnells
Subject: Response to HIF1 Proposals

Dear Leanne,

Drayton St Leonard Parish Council would like to record its support for the HIF1 Planning Application and urges the Planning Inspector to approve the scheme.

The local roads in the area of Burcot, Clifton Hampden, Warborough, Drayton St Leonard and Stadhampton, and in particular the single track road between Berinsfield and Stadhampton which passes through the small village of Drayton St Leonard, are already significantly congested during peak times and are used throughout the day as 'rat runs' for traffic transiting to the east of Oxford between the M40, Didcot and Abingdon. The addition of 15,000 new homes in Didcot and the plans to develop 1,700 new homes in Berinsfield will put significant further pressure on the local road infrastructure. The HIF1 improvements need to be adopted to take the existing and substantial future traffic demand that these homes will create. We contest that it is not the building of roads that creates traffic but the building of homes. We have no objection to the latter, but road infrastructure to support these developments must be enabled. Not to do so would be more damaging to the environment, putting significant additional traffic pressure on existing congested roads that are unsuitable and unsafe to carry high volumes of traffic, including HGVs, through the centre of small rural communities. We believe that the HIF1 proposals represent a well thought through series of improvements to the local road infrastructure and we are in full support of the plans, as indeed are many other local communities in the area. For this reason, the Parish Council was optimistic that the County Council as our local representative body, would approve these plans and so we were very disappointed to learn that at the meeting on 17th July, the Oxfordshire County Council planning committee rejected the HIF1 river crossing scheme and associated improvements and additions to other roads, against the recommendation of the planning officers. However we now understand that the OCC Planning Committee have decided to take a neutral position on the planning application, which we see as a positive step. It is hoped that the Planning Inspector sees that the benefits of the scheme far outweigh the detractors.

Edward Hayter

Chair
Drayton St Leonard Parish Council