

Drayton
NDP
Pre-Submission copy
Version 2
June 2014

Comments and Observations

1. In the Parish Council Chairman's observations (p6) he states that "Katherine Pearce, a Senior planner at the vale, has been a regular attender at steering group meetings" However those of us who have attended many of these meetings can only recall her being present on one occasion. Furthermore on that visit the 2020 steering group appeared to be hostile towards her, and it seemed to try to make her a scapegoat for their own inadequacies. Not I would suggest the best way to keep her on side and cooperative towards the NDP!
2. It is unclear if the Clerk of the Parish Council is a full member of the 2020 steering group, or if his role is purely administrative. Also in the last paragraph of the Chairman's observations it should also be made absolutely clear that Clerk is not a resident of the village.
3. Under the heading of Community Engagement (p11) it gives the impression that meetings with "Major Landowners" have been on-going since February 2013. This gives a totally false impression as the one and only meeting regarding the Barrow Road Site was held on 19th May 2014. A meeting I might add that was "hijacked" by a number of the 2020 steering group, this caused a large amount of friction and the meeting was rendered practically useless!
4. Under the heading Look and Feel (p16) how does the Barrow Road Site fulfil any part of this objective, other than by the provision of sports facilities?
5. Most of pages 23 - 32 appear to be a series of completely "Wishy Washy" paragraphs that attempt to support a number of other policy statements, but fail because of fact that they are inconsistent and incomplete.
6. The lack of any form of strategy to deal with the traffic problems that already exist and can only be made worse by any of the developments is of major concern, as this is such a fundamental part of the whole plan this should have been a priority right at the start of the NDP process, not something that is hastily concocted in the last few months of the timeframe. It occurs to me that the number of houses planned for Drayton will have exactly the same effect on traffic in Abingdon as those planned for the site near the Oday Hill road junction, and therefore should come under the same stringent restrictions.

7. When a respected member of the public suggested that the 2020 steering group should consider paying for a professional person to read through the final version of the NDP, to check that it was factually and legally correct, it was amazing to hear the arrogance of the 2020 steering Group who seemed to believe that they had all of the skills needed. I do hope so as it would be an absolute travesty for the whole thing to be rejected on the grounds that all or parts of it are deemed to be inadmissible.

Colin and Carol Arnold

30th July 2014