

From: Paul Groves
Sent: 11 April 2022 18:52
To: C&E Berkshire Consultation
Subject: Minerals and Waste Main Modifications Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam

Schedule of Proposed Main Modifications – 14th February 2022

I and several other residents of

. We were attracted to the area by the picturesque and relatively quiet lakeside location. At that time there were adjacent fields with grazing horses, which have since been built upon for further housing. We were aware of course that the Summerleaze gravel processing plant in Monkey Island Lane was nearby, however we were assured that gravel extraction in the immediate vicinity would soon finish and that the extraction plant would cease operation within 10 years, i.e. by around 1990.

However there have been several further approvals to extract gravel nearby, with the gravel being conveyed by travelator or by road to the Monkey Island Lane processing plant. Summerleaze has built up the bank between its plant and Bray Lake/the border with the Tithe Barn Estate, however gravel extraction and processing at the plant has continued for a further 30 years, with even more projected for the future. Operation of this plant with its truck activity is often noisy (with banging to empty the tipper trucks) and dust is blown over the nearby residential housing.

There is an almost continuous stream (projected as one every 3 minutes of the working day) of heavy trucks to and fro along Monkey Island Lane, and along the A308, Windsor Road to and from the turning to Monkey Island Lane. This is noisy, polluting and dangerous to residents who often walk and cycle along Monkey Island Lane and wish to cross the A308/Windsor Road.

With further extraction planned at Water Oakley, this will result in 160 truck journeys per day along the A308.

At the planning approval meeting about 4 years ago for Thames Valley Hospice to be built on the side of Bray Lake, it was stated that daily traffic along the A308/Windsor Road amounted to 19,000 vehicles per day. Cllr Coppinger in fact also said that he had visited the site, before approval or any building work, and had difficulty turning out again into the Windsor Road traffic. It was also stated at the meeting that a similarly busy road in Northern Ireland was being turned into a dual carriageway, but this was impossible for the A308/Windsor Road.

And yet RBWM approved building of the Hospice with it's 200 parking spaces adding to traffic along the A308. In fact it turns out that the Hospice only has 28 beds, but the 200 parking spaces mentioned, so it is not so much a Hospice but more a day-centre for staff and visitors to regularly come and go, adding to the traffic problems on Windsor Road.

Over the years it has become very dangerous, with 2 separate fatal accidents within 1/4 mile of the Monkey Island Lane junction, and many other accidents "waiting to happen". In busy periods it is almost impossible and often dangerous to turn right onto Windsor Road, either to go towards Maidenhead or towards Windsor.

You have to wait some time for a gap in the traffic, and in order to make the turn you have to try to anticipate when the traffic flow will produce a gap in both directions. Quite often this can be misjudged, such that the gap has closed up and you are part-way across one carriageway with traffic approaching the right side of your vehicle at 40mph.

This is made even more dangerous because sometimes there is a vehicle behind, also anticipating the difficulty, who has closed up the gap behind so that it is impossible to reverse back out of the way of traffic approaching at 40mph from your right.

This is exceedingly dangerous, and will also be the case for new traffic and residents turning right onto Windsor Road. We have made numerous representations to RBWM in the Hospice planning meetings and in other submissions, but still planning approvals and increases in traffic feeding onto the A308/Windsor Road are allowed to go ahead.

Will it take the next fatal accident along the A308 for RBWM to acknowledge the danger and strictly limit additional traffic?

It has been proposed to further reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph, but this is NOT the solution. That will cause the traffic to bunch up further, reducing the possible gaps to turn out into. And the A308/Windsor Road is a link road between Maidenhead and Windsor and NOT an urban "inner town" road. Out of rush hour, traffic flow and gaps to turn into are fine, and in fact limiting flow to 30mph outside rush-hour would be exceedingly slow.

THERE MUST BE A STOP TO THIS CONTINUAL APPROVAL OF MORE TRAFFIC DURING RUSH-HOURS ALONG WINDSOR ROAD.

Kind regards

Paul Groves