

Alex Page, Local Representative of Cycling UK in the Cycle Advocacy Network



As the Local Representative for Cycling UK in the Cycle Advocacy Network, our focus is on the wider aspects of active travel and the environment. I want to make clear that we agree with the contents of the letter sent by Tony Wares in the first Appeal and is still valid. We would also like to highlight that the road is one of the most dangerous in Haslemere for collisions, there were 5 accidents (Midhurst Road / Scot lane) over the period since Red Court was purchased.

*Appeal Core Documents - ID6.126 Tony Wares Pub Rep.*

*<https://www.crashmap.co.uk/Search/Haslemere>*

To continue on from his letter, many of the mitigations demanded are short-term, that highlight the potential issues, without proving the long-term solutions.

The universal issue with the site from an active travel viewpoint, is the distance to the most basic of services. Where and how do those residents buy, a loaf of bread, or a pint of milk. The North West section has a more direct active travel design, but, limited to the boundaries of the site. What of the East? As the connected land is, in the applicants own words, 'Land Within Ownership of the Applicant' can this route be confirmed as more than just a concept, for both resident, and those using the public footpaths from the south.

The distance from the town, also works in reverse, due to the scouts, and forest school, both of these are town wide assets, that these services are catered to the younger part of our population, some of whom may be independently mobile and used to traveling within town without supervision, this site being the exception in its relative location. It's quite the catch 22, given the scout hut and forest school are part of the social argument for development within a National Landscape, that also highlights the systemic dangers and issues with this development. That this should have been the prime safety factor over the increase in adult work trips, though the Highways agency seem not to have taken this into account within their impact on highways safety.

The provision of active travel of-site has been covered more comprehensively in Tony Wares letter.

This next part covers issues within the Highways agency assessment and demands.

*Appeal Core Documents - CD3.7 SCC Highways 4*

The on-demand bus service, that has a route, timetable, and only within the vicinity of the site. So, what are they funding. They are implying that the service will be busy

enough to require, and fund long term a dedicated service, but by calling it on-demand, that undermines that argument, they are accepting an in-adequate demand due to the relatively low residential numbers. So, what happens in four or five years?

The highways agencies note to planner, that sustainable transport such as EV or on-demand buses will reduce the material impact on highways safety is incorrect, the fuel used in the car does not remove it impact, as mentioned due the realistic passengers per on-demand bus trip, both will not reduce the overall powered vehicles trips or their safety impact.

The false assumption that out of 111 houses, only 68 journeys to work and back will be made, less than one per household. Single person ownership expected, no couple, both working, or with children. That also don't shop in person or go out at all.

To summarise our points.

- The location is too far away for residents to access the town services, other than by car, including key family services that are current in the center of town.
- Too far away from town residents to use the town wide services provided on site
- The sustainable transport mitigations are only a short-term solution with minimal impact.
- The Highways agency impact assessment is incomplete and doesn't provide the required information.
- The false assumption that only vehicular trips have a material impact on highway safety is enough to require a reassessment.

Reference documents

<https://planning360.waverley.gov.uk:4443/planning/search-applications?civica.query.FullTextSearch=WA%2F2022%2F01887#VIEW?RefType=GFPlanning&KeyNo=537565&KeyText=Subject>

<https://www.waverley.gov.uk/Services/Planning-and-building/Appeals-at-Inquiry/Midhurst-Road-at-Scotland-Park-Haslemere>

<https://planning360.waverley.gov.uk:4443/planning/search-applications?civica.query.FullTextSearch=WA%2F2022%2F01887#VIEW?RefType=GFPlanning&KeyNo=537565&KeyText=Subject>

