

NeighbourhoodPlanning

From: Gaynor Gallacher [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 May 2023 08:35
To: NeighbourhoodPlanning
Subject: Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan Review - Reg16 Consultation - National Highways comments

Dear planning policy team

Thank you for providing National Highways with the opportunity to comment on the Modified (March 2023) Blandford + Neighbourhood Plan, comprising the parishes of Blandford Forum, Blandford St Mary and Bryanston. The modified plan for the period 2011 to 2033 is submitted to fulfil the 2-yearly requirement to review plan policies.

National Highways is responsible for the strategic road network (SRN), which in this instance comprises the A31 and A35 to the south and the A303 to the north of the plan area. Of particular concern to us would therefore be any policies which have the potential to generate development traffic which could impact on the A350/A31 junction and, to a lesser extent, the A354/A35 and A350/A303 junctions.

We have noted the Plan's policies with regards housing and employment provision to be largely unchanged from the adopted Plan, with the principle policy changes being in relation to health provision, design codes and heritage assets.

Our position therefore remains unchanged in that we have no specific comments on the plan's policies. However, in general terms any large scale development that comes forward within the Plan area which has the potential to impact on the safe and efficient operation of the SRN will need to be supported by an appropriate assessment of traffic impacts which should consider the operation of the SRN in line with national planning practice guidance and DfT Circular 01/2022. Where proposals would result in a severe congestion or unacceptable safety impact, mitigation will be required in line with current policy.

These comments do not prejudice any future responses National Highways may make on site specific applications as they come forward through the planning process, which will be considered by us on their merits under the prevailing policy at the time.

Regards
Gaynor

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