

## **Submission to the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan on Issue No 9 CN Transport.**

From Mrs Judith Shelley

*long term resident and ex local government member.*

As time passes, natural development takes place in the villages in that part of the Borough to the west of Basingstoke, and yet more traffic is created within the area, which apart from the A339, is only served by country lanes. These lanes are the only means of travelling through it, from just south of the Bath road (A4) to Winchester or other southern or western towns. Over the years, the road through Kempshott has been subjected to traffic controls in favour of the residents and the road through Kingsclere has been narrowed on a difficult corner. As well as housing there are many businesses in this area, including the AWE, all of which also use the country lanes, helped by the use of SatNavs. Also agricultural equipment is getting larger, as are vans, lorries and private cars.

As a result all the villages and small towns in this area are suffering from too much and too heavy traffic for their roads. This will be considerably added to by the new development at Wootton St Lawrence and there will be yet more accidents and problems on these roads. In the village of Ramsdell where I live, we are producing a neighbourhood plan and whilst this is in its early stages, it is obvious that traffic in the village is the residents' major concern.

I share the Inspector's concern that no provision has been made to deal with this situation. Repairing and widening these country lanes is not a practical solution: they are often based on beaten chalk and have very narrow verges. No doubt the ultimate solution is a dual carriage way western by-pass of Basingstoke, but this would take many years to achieve. However, a single carriage way about the size of the current A339 running from the A 30, to the west of the new development and joining up with the A340 might perhaps be considered within the much nearer future. Some of the cost of this road could fall on the new development and money was set aside in the last Government budget for smaller transport schemes. Not only would this be good for the residents, it would enhance the NWDAONB which covers a large part of the area.

Basingstoke since its inception as an expanded town in the 1960s has always had the leadership to seek a practical solution to problems; going for value for money rather than the 'showy' answer. I would submit that this road would be another example of just that.

