

Submission to BDBC Local Plan Hearings.

Re Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November Issue 9 Transport from participant Mr John Darker.

As a resident of Sherfield on Loddon who uses the A33 on a daily basis I wish to raise concerns that insufficient attention is paid in the Local Plan to the issue of traffic congestion on the A33 and in particular the stretch between the roundabout at Sherfield on Loddon and the roundabout at Taylor's Farm ( Sherfield Park ) As a former Parish Councillor, I have no doubt that my concerns are shared by the great majority of local residents.

The A33 is the substantive route for traffic between Basingstoke and Reading and the M3 to the M4. Large numbers of people commute between the two towns in each direction. Distribution centres such as the TESCO base in Reading and the Sainsbury's base in Basingstoke have added to its use by heavy lorries

The A33 is invariably highly congested with bumper to bumper traffic in both directions in the morning from 7.30-9.30 am and evening from 4-6.30pm. The slightest holdup quickly produces tailbacks for several miles and long delays .in both directions. Anyone from Sherfield, who wishes to catch a train in the morning needs to allow 45 minutes for the 5 mile journey to Basingstoke station.

Apart from some tinkering with roundabouts there are no meaningful proposals to increase the capacity of the A33. Development proposals in the Local Plan can only add to the congestion thus making a difficult situation worse as more traffic is directed onto the A33 at the two roundabouts adjacent to Sherfield.

For instance there are plans for around 500 new homes in Bramley village with some of these due in 2016, together with the Cafaude Lane development. Most of this traffic will use the Bramley road to access the A33 at Sherfield. Traffic already queues back from the Sherfield roundabout along the Bramley Road for as much as a mile in the mornings and residents particularly the elderly experience problems in crossing the road safely to use the post office and paper shop. There is a pending application for 140 homes in Sherfield on Loddon which would enter the Bramley Road at this pinch point.

Traffic is often delayed on the A33 between the two Sherfield roundabouts at the entrance to Sherfield School which has begun a plan to double pupil numbers without being required to improve the access to deal with their increased vehicle use.

The Taylors Farm Roundabout where delays already occur will be required to deal with more traffic from the pending Razor's Farm site (250 homes) and then from the Redlands Farm Development (150) which may well be added to by development at Sherfield |Hill Farm (40 homes)and the omission site at Dixon Road (110 homes) Lastly the potential for at least 450 homes near the incinerator will introduce more traffic to the A33 between Sherfield and Basingstoke.

Taken together it is clear that the Local Plan will introduce considerably more traffic to the highly congested A33. It is likely that the proposed housing developments will produce two adjacent choke points at the Sherfield on Loddon and Taylor's Farm Roundabouts. Given that there are no meaningful plans to address these matters apart from minor adjustments it is likely that traffic movement between Basingstoke and Reading will grind to a halt on a regular basis with consequent revenue implications to individuals and business.

John Darker October 2015.