

## **Further submission to the Basingstoke and Deane Local Plan on Issue No 9 CN Transport**

At the hearing yesterday on the Transport policies for the Basingstoke Local Plan I felt that the contribution from the Transport Officer from the County Council and his advisor was very unsatisfactory. It seemed to be based almost entirely on putative modelled' figures for the possible traffic movements from the new housing proposed in the plan with very narrow criteria as to where such traffic might want to go. If this was based on existing traffic movements, no regard seems to have been given to the considerable disruption to traffic, particularly in the south of the town, by the works at the Black Dam roundabout, where individual drivers have chosen what they considered to be the best route in the circumstances.

There was very little mention of travelling to work, a particular concern for those living to the northern part of the area. Aldermaston, Reading and the M4 corridor, where employment is growing fast, act as a magnet to many people who choose to commute there from the Basingstoke area. The area through which they have to travel is poorly served by main roads and in consequence all the villages suffer rat run traffic on very minor roads with drivers aiming for the A33 and the A340.

There is at this time, with the Manydown housing scheme going forward, an opportunity to create a short stretch of new single carriage way from the A339 to the A340 avoiding the villages to the west. Together with Manydown link road, it might also divert some of the traffic from the roundabouts in the south of the town where very complicated and expensive improvements are proposed. I realise that this is a complete change to the existing plan but I do not feel that the existing scheme for traffic in the Borough has been really thought through or will help the existing congestion.