

## Notes for the BDBC Local Plan Exploratory Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014

### 3. Environmental issues

**3.1** The sewage works and the incinerator on Whitmarsh Lane were located there precisely because this was outside the built up area of Basingstoke.

No firm measures with costings or sources of funding are defined to ameliorate problems caused by building homes in proximity to these facilities.

**3.2** Flood mitigation works for SS3.9 could result in serious damage to a precious local landscape resource if new flood relief channels become necessary. The need is for more wet meadows to act as sponges for water, not the destruction of existing ones.

Development in the Lyde/Loddon flood plain could cause irreversible changes to areas of important biodiversity such as the Wildmoor reedbeds.

The submitted Local Plan states that sewage treatment is

*“currently failing to meet ‘good’ status under the Water Framework Directive”*

and admits that

*“there is no way of preventing this increase which is potentially damaging to the biodiversity of the river”.*

This makes the Plan certainly unsound and perhaps unlawful.

**3.3** SS3.9 states ***“In light of the nearby incinerator and sewerage treatment works, ensure where possible, acceptable noise and odour standards can be met within homes”*** It is considered that this alone makes the proposal unsound. What if such measures are **not** possible?

There are already problems with odour in Lychpit & Wade Road from sewage from N Popley being held back to even out the flow through the works. Are similar problems going to occur with the proposed developments to the N and E of Chineham and Old Basing? Again, no firm measures with costings or funding are stated.

### 4. Transport issues

The A33 is both the route into Basingstoke from Chineham and all the proposed developments to the N and E of Chineham and Old Basing. It is also a main route to Reading and from the M3 to the M4. It is already seriously congested. It is a busy commuter route in both directions. The western side of the road from Chineham to Sherfield is built up, if SS3.9 and SS2.6 are built it will be impossible to widen and upgrade the only road north from Basingstoke joining the town with Reading and the motorway network.

The existing developed areas already have congestion problems and difficulties joining the overloaded A33. The Plan has no specific proposals to solve this. SS3.3, SS3.8 and the Aurum site will all access the A33 via existing congested developments. Phrases such as “measures to mitigate” and “improvements to the A33 corridor” are without meaning and with no firm, costed and funded proposals this Plan is unsound.

### 6. Level of Detail

The level of detail is insufficient throughout this Plan, there is a lack of clarity in all the proposals for the infrastructure needed for new developments. In almost all policies there are bland statements such as “Measures to mitigate” or “ensure adequate sewerage infrastructure is provided” but no details to enable consultees to evaluate the Plan properly. Many of the infrastructure requirements are provided by bodies outside the Borough’s control. HCC provide education and highways, both inadequate in the N and E of Basingstoke. Thames Water provides sewerage and storm drainage. This Plan is unsound without such bodies having clear proposals agreed with the Borough rather than mere good intentions.