

THE CHICHESTER SOCIETY



From the Chairman Richard Childs

Mr Andrew Frost
Head of Planning Services
Chichester District Council
Chichester PO19 1TY
7 April 2016

Dear Mr Frost

Planning Application CC/14/04301/OUT - West of Chichester revised masterplan

I'm writing on behalf of the Chichester Society in response to your letter dated 24 March 2016 inviting comments on the revised West of Chichester Masterplan. We have three points to make:

First, providing only 14 days to respond over the Easter holiday reduces the value of consultation: the Council's members and officers should be aware that two weeks over a public holiday effectively discourages, rather than encourages, civic participation.

Second, the Society (and many others in this town) believes that Linden-Miller Homes and their agents have failed to adequately consult and engage with local interests in preparing the revised masterplan. We ask that the Council, as Local Planning Authority, adopt a firmer approach in future with all developers, large and small, and insist they consult and engage with residents.

Third, the Society considers that this Masterplan must be revised to **create a southern access route from the start of Phase 1** so that construction traffic can be directed from Cathedral Way roundabout direct to the new development. Heavy plant and lorries must avoid:

- (1) the congested junction at Sherborne Road and Westgate, which is unsafe for the hundreds of pupils going to/from Bishop Luffa School;
- (2) Orchard Street, where air quality monitoring equipment already demonstrates that children at the infant and junior schools in this road are exposed to heightened levels of air pollution.

If the development of Whitehouse Farm is to be genuinely sustainable (per the Local Plan) the Council's priority must be the health and safety of Chichester's younger generation.

Yours sincerely

RJ Childs