

CHAIRMAN WHITELEY TOWN COUNCIL

SPEAKING NOTE – NORTH WHITELEY PLANNING APPLICATION 10 SEP 2015

Mr Chairman – Good Afternoon. As you are aware Whiteley Town Council had from the outset made it clear that it would support the North Whiteley development in order to facilitate the provision of improved facilities and infrastructure. This support was, however, on the strict understanding that the present deficiencies such as sports pitches, highway infrastructure and schools were addressed and fully satisfied prior to or very early in the proposed new development.

This was back in 2008 when I first addressed the then LDF Cabinet Committee and I made it perfectly clear that nothing less would satisfy the Town Council and its local community.

In fact this is theme we have promoted throughout the consultation process.

The Town Council has kept the Whiteley community, both Winchester and Fareham residents fully informed of progress and the need for early highway improvements including another route out of Whiteley has remained the number 1 priority.

Our comments on the Planning Application spell out our areas of concern and in the time that I have available I would like to expand on some areas which are fundamental to our continuing support or otherwise of this development.

On a positive note we welcome the decision that there will be no privately managed areas in the proposed new development.

We also welcome the early provision of 2 all-weather soccer pitches which will be built on the secondary school site.

Whiteley is already short of sports pitches and this is something the Town Council has pursued vigorously.

The 2 all-weather pitches are first and foremost a community facility and we recognise that they will also be used by the secondary school during the day in term time. We feel strongly that like all the other pitches in Whiteley these 2 pitches should be managed by the Town Council. We do not agree that they should be managed by the secondary school which we understand will become an Academy and will therefore not fall within the responsibility of Hampshire County Council. We are told that the details of this and other issues relating to areas of responsibility including the Construction Traffic Management Plan will be contained in the S106 Agreement. What is disappointing is that we are being denied the ability to view, comment on and contribute to this document. We find this unacceptable.

Mr Chairman the area that is of most concern to the Town Council and the community is the timeframe for proposed highway improvements to the existing Whiteley Way and

the extension of Bluebell Way onto the Botley Road. These appear to have changed as a direct result of the revision to the phasing of the development.

At the public exhibition in December last year which was attended by over 500 residents “roads before houses” was the clear message and there was general support for the development because there was the prospect of LEP funding to enable key highway infrastructure such as the extension to Bluebell Way and improvements to the existing Whiteley Way to be brought forward early in the development

However since then changes to the phasing mean that the proposed development will be delivered in 8 years rather than 12 years. If this is approved then there will be a minimum of 500 houses with a cumulative population of 1250 in year 2 without another access out of Whiteley. It is also noted from the Officers report that completion of Bluebell Way has now slipped from Year 2 to year 3.

More importantly there are no planned improvements to start on the existing Whiteley Way until (year 5 and will not be completed until year 6 of the development. Whiteley Way is already a choke point and we fear for the economic viability of the Solent Business Park and Whiteley shopping unless something is done now.

It is totally unacceptable that the Whiteley population has to suffer further from the failure to deliver early the key highway improvements to the existing Whiteley Way and Bluebell Way.

Mr Chairman in conclusion the existing traffic levels in Whiteley threaten not only the wellbeing of our residents but also the economic viability of the Solent Business Park and Whiteley Shopping.

Highways improvements should be completed ahead of new housing. It is with regret for the reasons outlined above

That Whiteley Town Council no longer supports the planning application in its present form. Thank You