



**CHIPPENHAM
TOWN COUNCIL**
Improving the quality of town life

Future Chippenham Team
Wiltshire Council
Bythesea Road
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Wiltshire
BA14 8JN

05 March 2021

Consultation Response from Chippenham Town Council

Dear Future Chippenham Team,

In response to the Future Chippenham Consultation, the overriding view of Chippenham Town Councillors is that they do not agree with the proposals for any road in Chippenham. Please see attached comments from twelve individual Town Councillors which support this view (**Enclosed Document 1**). This is the official Chippenham Town Council response to the consultation as approved at the Extraordinary Full Council meeting held on Thursday 04 March 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Smith MBA LLB (Hons) CMgr FCMi FSLCC
Chief Executive

Chippenham Town Council

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Councillor comments relating to Future Chippenham Consultation

Against all three road options. I do not agree that Wiltshire Council should be consulting upon a road route before consulting on the number of houses and their possible location. I believe selecting a road route before consulting on the number of houses and their possible location would predetermine the Local Plan. I think all the options on offer would be immensely damaging in terms of environmental impact, traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. I have seen no validated evidence or transparent calculations on the population growth of Chippenham to justify the number of houses rumoured. (Cllr PB, Cllr AP, Cllr NP)

Against all three road options and against the road entirely. I also do not agree that Wiltshire Council should be consulting upon a road route before consulting on the number of houses and their possible location. (Cllr A O'N)

Against all road options. I do not agree that Wiltshire should be consulting upon a road route before consulting on the number of houses and their possible location and believe selecting a road route before consulting on the number of houses and their possible location would predetermine the Local Plan. (Cllr BD)

Against all three of the road options. I believe selecting a road route before consulting on the number of houses and their possible location would predetermine the Local Plan. I think all the options on offer would be immensely damaging in terms of environmental impact, traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. There is no evidence of benefits to Chippenham. The proposal does not accord with what the public told us during the early consultations for the Neighbourhood Plan. I have not added anything to the form you attached, since it does not allow for a 'no' option; further, I am concerned that responses may be skewed in favour of a road as the 'no' option was left out; therefore people may just select the "least worst" route. Yesterday at Wiltshire Council Cabinet Cllr Richard Clewer admitted that the consultation questionnaire should have included a 'no' option. Many members of the public have contacted me with the same concern. (Cllr CC)

Against all these road options and against the road entirely. I have not added anything to the questionnaire form you attached, since it does not allow for this. I also do not agree that Wiltshire Council should be consulting upon a road route before consulting on the number of houses and their possible location. (Cllr CR)

I believe that selecting a road route before consulting on the number of houses would predetermine the local plan. I also question the need for that number of houses in Chippenham. (Cllr DP)





Against all 3 road options, and indeed opposed to the way in which this consultation process is being conducted as it only provides options for a road and no options against the road. (Cllr JA)

I am opposed to the HIF bid and the proposals to put in a distributor road to enable two very large commuter extensions to be constructed in our surrounding countryside. I think the scale of expansion that the road is intended to enable would be immensely damaging to the character of our town, as well as surrounding towns and villages. It would also create far greater traffic congestion that it could possibly alleviate and destroy much of what local people value about living here, with absolutely no guarantee of any future benefits for the town. The road itself would enable the destruction of much of the Avon and Marden valley, removing farmland that is needed by future generations and destroying valuable natural capital in the process. It would also destroy an important carbon sink, release huge quantities of carbon in the construction of unnecessary viaducts over the river and canal and would lock in many years of tailpipe greenhouse gas emissions as a result of promoting commuting. I think the process of consulting on routes for a road, before considering anyone's views on the number of houses that may be needed and their possible locations around the town, is deeply flawed, as is the consultation form that doesn't allow for a 'none of these options' response, which according to Wiltshire Council's Deputy Leader at last week's Cabinet meeting, it should have done. I think the whole so-called 'Future Chippenham' HIF bid development process, which seems to have been designed to severely limit, if not predetermine, the Local Plan options, has been flawed from the outset, including the lack of public consultation, lack of transparency and Wiltshire Council's on-going refusal to share crucial information, for example with regards the conditions agreed with Homes England. (Cllr NM)

I regret to say I cannot support the plan in its present form. There seems to be no justification for the proposed level of new housing. Dumping 80% of Wiltshire's housing needs on to our town seems to me that the plan has been tailored to the HIF bid and vice versa. I do not approve of any of the road options which, in my view will result in the desecration of beautiful countryside and villages. The road to Lacock is a road to nowhere. WCC needs to go back to the drawing board. I could accept the 3500/4000 homes already planned for but no more. (Cllr RB)

Against all the road route options. I have not filled in the consultation questionnaire as it does not allow for this. I consider all the options on offer to be hugely damaging with respect to impact on the environment, traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions. (Cllr RL)