

Date: 27 May 2015
Our ref: NJB/CRO/706/10.11.189
Your Ref:

**Highway Records
Speedwell House
Speedwell Street
Oxford
OX1 1NE**

**Sue Scane
Director for Environment &
Economy**

Vectos
Network Building
97 Tottenham Court Rd
London W1T 4TP

For the attention of **Emma Grayson**

Dear Ms Grayson

**Didcot: Orchard Centre Extension, bus link - Proposed stopping up of Public Highway
S.247 Town & Country Planning Act – Oxfordshire County Council Response**

Oxfordshire County Council is responding to this stopping up order whilst also responding to the Planning Application P15/S0433/FUL submitted to South Oxfordshire District Council for the Orchard Centre Phase 2a development. The two responses are aligned.

Oxfordshire County Council objects to the stopping up order.

The bus link which is subject of the stopping up request is still required by the County Council and forms an important part of the transport network. It provides both local access to the shopping centre and is a key part of the strategic bus route for Science Vale.

The applicant has shown an alternative (via Station Rd) that, in principle, is on a suitable alignment; however the current application does not fully demonstrate how this will be satisfactorily delivered. Further work is required to convince the County Council that this alternative link can be successfully delivered.

In order to remove the objection the applicant needs to demonstrate a suitable alternative provision of the bus link and bus stops which supports the priority destinations of Didcot station, Orchard Centre and the Broadway. This link must be delivered, operational and signed off by the County Council prior to agreement of the stopping up of the current High Street bus link.

Additional area of Stopping Up:

We have established that there is an area of public highway (within OCC ownership) that has been omitted from this application. It is noted that on drawing 110350/SK/58 Revision B that an additional section of highway would be required if the plans remain as they are. The land to the west of the petrol filling station is shown on the plan to extend to the north for additional car parking. This area of land has public highway status but has not been included in this consultation.

Yours sincerely

Nick Blacow
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