

SONNING COMMON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Office, Village Hall, Wood Lane

Sonning Common, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 9SL

Parish Clerk: Philip Collings

Telephone: 0118 9723616

Email: clerk@sonningcommonparishcouncil.gov.uk

The Inspired Villages Development has been a controversial development from the start generating considerable local public interest and a crowd funded campaign to resist the proposals. This zebra crossing proposal is seen as another part of this development which is inappropriate, and we feel that a more appropriate wider local consultation should have been conducted rather than the few households who were consulted and who have strongly have objected.

Cabinet Members will see the objections and concerns raised by us and residents in your information pack, but the Parish believe none of these concerns have been addressed. Although we support the need for a crossing to keep safe our residents, we do not believe this zebra crossing is the right option for our village and we ask you to defer your decision to find an acceptable and agreeable solution for all concerned rather than forcing something on us that the council and residents do not agree with. We have also been informed by Inspired Villages that they presented various options to yourselves which we have not been consulted on. Has the possibility of a more formal 'Give Way' system using a build-out chicane to control vehicle movement been considered?

We do not have any other zebra crossings in the village, the visibility splay is completely inadequate, the carriageway is narrow in width and traffic already adopts an informal one-way system to pass each other. No mention of this is made or how this existing problem will be resolved and in fact will be made worse by the zebra crossing. The Vehicle Maintenance Bay removes further green areas from the area whilst there is a parking area across the other side of the road and as indicated temporary signage would be used to indicate works occurring anyway. It would obscure visibility for vehicles and pedestrians the crossing is trying to protect. The crossing would spoil an area of local natural beauty.

The proposed plan for a filter drain to capture water from a steep site is completely inadequate and will fail to manage the water. We believe it would make the flooding issues at the bottom of the Widmore Lane worse which OCC have recently incurred costs trying to rectify. There is no explanation of the view from Lead Local Flood Authority explaining why they believe it to be adequate. Councillor Boorman, who raised the objection, is a nationally recognised flood expert who works and consults on flooding issues and a contributor to the SuDS manual indicating appropriate drainage methods to use in different locations. Our concerns should not be ignored on this matter and is completely unacceptable if OCC agree to this plan without further consultation.

By approving this application, you will be ignoring the Parish's concerns on safety, amenities, aesthetics along with creating new issues by allowing the Vehicle Maintenance Bay to be installed.