

**Planning & Regulation Committee
Monday, 17 July 2023**

ADDENDA 2

Written Statements from Registered Speakers.

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Agenda Item 5

Addenda 2

Written Statement from Andy Holding

I would like to attend and speak, but due to short notice I cannot guarantee I can attend this meeting.

However, if I can speak via this email I'm strongly against the HIF1 proposal on multiple grounds.

Firstly it's going against the Climate Change Committee agenda.

Secondly, there's cheaper alternatives such as a railway service from Wantage & Grove Parkway Station which could be reopened in three years and this could provide services from Wantage & Grove Parkway to Didcot Parkway and then onto Culham Station.

This could save the taxpayers in excess of £260,000,000 as the new station at Wantage would cost around £20,000,000 based on Reading Green park station and Marsh Barton, as well as several other stations being reopened in Bristol on the Bristol Metro.

I'm also very concerned about the impact on the local communities in the area of this proposed HIF1 route.

In addition to this the environmental impacts on the ecosystem and emissions which will be produced in building this project.

We should be investing in mass public transportation such as railways, buses and cycling schemes, and not on road infrastructure projects.

I would kindly ask you reconsider HIF1 and invest in an Oxfordshire Metro railway and bus services, as well as cycling schemes.

Written Statement from Ian Palmer

I regret that I am now unable to join the meeting online as I have just received a hospital appointment which I must attend.

Would it be possible for my statement to be read out at the meeting? I include my statement below in the hope that this is possible.

I speak on behalf of my relatives who live in Appleford, a village which will be uncomfortably close to the proposed road.

My relatives and I are very concerned about the impact this road will have on their lives especially due to the levels of noise and pollution.

The Parish Council has worked on behalf of residents to mitigate some of our concerns with Oxfordshire County Council (the Council), but this has been met with little to no engagement. Our valid concerns have been brushed aside.

The Council has recognised that the road will have significant adverse consequences for residents and by granting permission for this road the Council will knowingly create permanent noise damage. The Council have failed to take into consideration the existing levels of intrusive noise from the railway, tip and Appleford sidings.

In addition to noise this road will cause unacceptable levels of pollution detrimental to the health of residents of the village and the environment. The Council was in the news recently launching a £200,000 plan to cut air pollution which the Council is quoted as considering it to be the "biggest environmental risk to public health".

We are advised that the Council's strategy aims to lower emissions of air pollution to protect those most vulnerable alongside reducing vehicle usage and establish homes and schools away from major roads. Why is this policy not being implemented in Appleford, why is it acceptable to subject the residents of this village to pollution from this major road scheme.

In 2019 the Council declared a climate emergency acknowledging the need to act on the causes and impacts of climate change and has since declared its commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030. This road project is inconsistent with your policies and announcements so I can only conclude that your policies are at worst just for show or at best inconsistently applied.

We are led to believe this road will solve all congestion problems, but it is well known and acknowledged by the Council in its Local Transport and Connectivity Plan that new roads lead to induced demand leading to more cars on the road and the road reaching capacity. Furthermore, the Council acknowledges that new roads are not a sustainable long-term solution for Oxfordshire. Why then is this road being considered when alternative solutions are being ignored?

How will the Council meet the cost of this road? Our concern is that you won't be able to or that this will result in a higher element going to the Council from our council tax to fund the cost. People are struggling with high energy bills, high food bills and now increases in mortgage rates. Increased taxes to fund a road which will not solve the problems it is being held as the solution for is not acceptable when going through a cost-of-living crisis.

I ask the committee to consider the residents who will be affected, the pollution, noise and costs. To look and adhere to your own policies and to reject this plan and look to alternatives. This road has no place in Oxfordshire.

Yours sincerely

Ian Palmer

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