

Holyport Residents do not want LEGOLAND Windsor's Traffic

I am Andrew Cormie, current Chairman of the Holyport Residents Association, and I speak on behalf of Holyport area residents who do not want any increase of traffic through Holyport in the Parish of Bray.

It is appropriate for me to object to LEGOLAND Windsor expansions, as LEGOLAND wish to have their traffic pass through Holyport. Residents comments can be seen at the following link; <http://www.holyportresidentsassociation.org/legoland-traffic.html>

LEGOLAND Windsor is part of Merlin Entertainments plc whose Trading Update of 17th September 2015 tells us;

“While near term challenges remain, the Group is making good overall progress on its growth strategy. We have significant new investments planned across the estate and are well placed to deliver these in 2016 and beyond.”

Bear in mind then that LEGOLAND Windsor has growth as a strategic objective.

LEGOLAND Windsor has submitted to you a document produced for them by “MOTION”, titled; “LEGOLAND signage strategy - Report on the outcomes of the 2014 trial routes and signage changes”

That document tells us that under the Traffic Management Act 2004 – the Royal Borough has a statutory duty of

“securing the expeditious movement of traffic on the authority’s road network; and facilitating the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority”.

The MOTION report states that a working group including representatives from RBWM, the LEGOLAND Windsor Resort, Bracknell Forest Council, Surrey County Council and the Highways Agency, was set up to consider how LEGOLAND Windsor traffic could be diverted so as to reduce its effect in Windsor, and to prevent LEGOLAND traffic build up on the M4.

It seems to me that the object of establishing the working group was to divert LEGOLAND traffic away from Windsor or to less busy routes in Windsor so that LEGOLAND could point to reduced traffic in Windsor as being a reason why they should be allowed further expansion.

One traffic route proposed by the working group and referred to by LEGOLAND as “Route 3” is for arriving LEGOLAND traffic to leave the motorway system at M4 Junction 8/9 and travel on the A330 through Holyport. Departing traffic would presumably be expected to take the reverse route. Route 3 would enable traffic to avoid most of Windsor.

LEGOLAND are also considering creating another “exit”, but they need planning permission for it. If RBWM were to agree to the use of Route 3, then LEGOLAND might use such agreement to justify the new exit. I sincerely hope that they will not get permission as the position of this proposed “exit” would in itself lead to more traffic through the B3024 (Forest Green road) and other Holyport and Bray Parish roads, to M4 J 8/9.

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Residents of Holyport already suffer from Heathrow aircraft noise, motorway and local road traffic noise, and pollution from traffic exhausts. The traffic noise and exhaust pollution will increase with the forthcoming commencement of cross-rail. The junction of the A308 and Holyport Road and Upper Bray Road is currently reported in RBWM documentation as having exhaust pollution greater than allowed by the EU.

The LEGOLAND working group devised Route 3 and imposed a traffic trial on us. I believe that no agreement for the trial was sought from Holyport Representatives, neither RBWM Bray Ward Councillors or Bray Parish Council, and certainly not from the Holyport Residents Association.

The LEGOLAND Route 3 traffic trial was a failure as the motorway signs that should have directed traffic to leave the M4 at J 8 / 9 mostly did not display the message, so traffic volume through Holyport did not change.

Despite this, LEGOLAND and RBWM initially reported the trial as being a success.

In their report, MOTION refer to data (that they say they have not analysed) showing the points in time when the motorway signs displayed the message for J 8/9, and they mention that this "raw data" is available for review. I was provided by data through my RBWM Ward Councillor, but the data was useless as it did not cover the period of the trial.

The RBWM representatives on the working group did not include any of the three RBWM Ward Councillors for Bray Ward. Nor did it have any representatives from any of the villages or rural areas through which the proposed routes traverse.

I consider that the concept of decanting traffic from motorways into rural roads, using the latter as moving car parks and inconveniencing residents so as to enable LEGOLAND Windsor to continue growing is inappropriate and unacceptable.

Current problems with roads through Holyport.

Inadequacies of the A330 on LEGOLAND Route 3

1. The A330 through Holyport has a particularly narrow stretch around 5 metres in width and incapable of being widened. Some other stretches of this road are also little over 5 metres wide. Heavy Lorries have often been observed passing each other (in opposite directions) in the narrow stretch with at least one lorry driving on a footway. When Lorries do not have to pass each other they have been seen at speed on this same narrow stretch. The footways are either non-existent or too narrow. RBWM and Bray Parish Council are trying to establish a 7.5 tonne weight limit.
2. There are concerns about traffic accident potential on the A330 near its junction with the B3024 at Touchen-end. Residents of Touchen-end and Paley Street have managed to have RBWM improve this with road markings and signage, but the danger has not been much reduced.

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3. Between Touchen-end and Holyport on the A330 we now have the Holyport College. There is great concern amongst residents whose children attend the Holyport College that accidents may occur here. Footways on the A330 at the school are inadequate and there is pressure from residents to have these improved. A petition is underway on this.
4. A speed and traffic volume survey for the A330 in 2012 has reported approximately 11600 vehicles per day.

Holyport Road and Moneyrow Green inadequacies

These roads are not on Route 3 but I mention them because extra LEGOLAND traffic on the A330 could cause more traffic on them.

1. For Holyport Road and Moneyrow Green a petition submitted **in mid 2013** requested a public consultation on Traffic calming. **But over two years later** RBWM and Bray Parish Council are **still considering** what traffic calming measures they are willing to offer in a public consultation.
2. A speed and traffic volume survey for Holyport Road has reported approximately 6000 vehicles per day.
3. Holyport Road and Moneyrow Green are currently only 5.5 metres in width and the RBWM Highway Design Guide for new roads such as this specifies a width of 6 metres. Footways by the side of these roads fail to meet the width guidelines in RBWM design guide for new roads of their category.

Since the last traffic surveys we are seeing increased heavy vehicle movements on both the A330 and Holyport Road.

I claim that all of these poor road design matters make it unwise, improper, inappropriate and irresponsible for LEGOLAND and / or RBWM to actively promote or agree to an increase of traffic through Holyport.

Further General Comments on LEGOLAND Windsor

Concurrently with this LEGOLAND Windsor appeal against RBWM's refusal of the Haunted House, LEGOLAND Windsor is presently applying for an extension to their existing LEGOLAND Windsor Hotel. It is clear from Merlin Entertainments Trading Update that it is company policy and strategy to be always seeking ways to expand.

I believe that LEGOLAND Windsor will continue to attempt all possible expansion, and that such expansion would cause any space made available on Windsor's roads by diverting traffic through Holyport and Bray Parish roads to soon become filled again by LEGOLAND traffic.

Merlin Entertainments and some RBWM Councillors claim that LEGOLAND Windsor attracts

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visitors to Windsor and that this is good for Windsor businesses and the Borough as a whole.

I do not agree with that concept. Most visitors attend on a daily basis and visitors who have queued in traffic for a considerable period to get to LEGOLAND Windsor are extremely unlikely to have stopped on the way, and after a frustrating day queuing inside LEGOLAND Windsor they will be even less likely to stop on the way home.

LEGOLAND does not accept pedestrian visitors. So any persons who decide to stay in Windsor in a B&B or Hotel still have to use their cars to get to LEGOLAND. This makes it less likely that visitors wishing to stay overnight would use local non LEGOLAND accommodation and more likely that they would use the LEGOLAND Hotel, which of course is what LEGOLAND wants; and is the reason why they have also applied for permission to extend their hotel.

I heard that on two recent occasions LEGOLAND Windsor car parks including the overflow car park were full, so cars that had travelled to and queued into Windsor were unable to enter LEGOLAND thus causing even more congestion. Other Windsor car parks were nearly full and this can lead to frustration and possible accidents.

In Conclusion

LEGOLAND have pointed out that Local Authorities must secure the expeditious movement of traffic on their own road network and also facilitate the expeditious movement of traffic on road networks for which another authority is the traffic authority. This will be best achieved by RBWM and the Planning Inspectorate refusing all LEGOLAND expansion plans.

LEGOLAND Windsor currently imposes traffic difficulties on Windsor Residents and any LEGOLAND expansion would make these difficulties worse. The Local Authority and the Planning Inspectorate should consider this as a reason for disallowing any further LEGOLAND Windsor expansion.

Residents should not be obliged by the Local Authority and / or the Planning Inspectorate to accept that an international business with premises in their area will be allowed to continually expand whilst imposing more traffic on them.

Holyport Residents strongly object to LEGOLAND and Local Authority attempts to impose LEGOLAND traffic onto Holyport Roads, and seek to convince RBWM to disallow the use of LEGOLAND Route 3 and the Planning Inspectorate to disallow this appeal.