

Andrew Cormie

From: Andrew Cormie [andrew@zembu.plus.com]
Sent: 05 April 2014 11:12
To: 'Theresa May (mayt@parliament.uk)'
Cc: 'Cllr Burbage'; 'cllr.coppinger@rbwm.gov.uk'; 'Leo Walters'; 'Mike McGaughrin'; 'Debra Reading'; 'Maria Lucas'
Subject: FW: MP for Bracknell Dr Lee's Super Hospital proposal
Importance: High

Dear Theresa,

Having taken part in the RBWM consultation about their Local Plan, both as an individual and as the Chairman of the Holyport Residents Association (HRA), I was saddened to see recently your further continuing support for a hospital at J8/9 on the land identified by RBWM as Area 5C.

It is unhelpful in the extreme that you should continue to support this idea, even though the present traffic problems around the Holyport area would be very much worsened by a hospital in this location.

In the HRA submission to RBWM, I stated that it was irresponsible of RBWM to include for the residents' vote the possibility of a Hospital in Area 5C, without also publishing for residents consideration the current adverse traffic situation and increased traffic forecasts should a hospital be built on Area 5C. I do not know what assessment RBWM has carried out - but they are in receipt of two petitions from residents, one asking for a public consultation on the current traffic situation, the other calling for improvements. Neither of these petitions has been answered by RBWM.

Traffic increases are already expected due to various house building in areas to the West, a new school at the Junction of the A330 and Forest Green Road, crossrail and more. A hospital would suffer difficulty of access to and from it due to poor road infrastructure, and construction problems due to the unknown content of the Area 5C land as it was a quarry and subsequent landfill site.

It is a nonsense for you to keep on supporting this hospital with no apparent recognition of what residents and their elected local councillors have told you.

You will see below, at the end of this email, an email that I sent to you on 31st January 2013, to which you did not reply.

If you look at the HRA website <http://www.holyportresidentsassociation.org> in the "Topics", "Lee Hospital" tabs you will see the same email published there together with a letter from the Bray Ward RBWM Councillors addressed to the Maidenhead Advertiser. (These items have been there on that site since February 2013.)

For your ease of reference the text of the Councillors' letter follows immediately below;

A letter from Cllrs Burbage, Coppinger and Walters in the Maidenhead Advertiser of 21 February 2013

Super hospital a great idea but in the wrong place

With regard to the regional hospital proposal and MP Dr Philip Lee's views, we believe a new hospital for Maidenhead is a great idea. But as was made clear at the public meeting at the Holiday Inn, it is not possible to be specific about a location for the hospital until government policy is known.

The catchment area, the population to be served, what hospitals may or may not merge, all have to be decided before a location is determined. This presumably is why the Department of Health, on Dr Lee's own admittance, does not wish to enter into discussions with him on this matter. As to the merits and demerits of a regional hospital, we are not qualified to comment but we know others who do not share Dr Lee's

views. A gigantic new hospital with approximately 1,000 beds, 6,500 staff and approximately 3,000 car parking spaces is not the right answer.

We appreciate you have to start somewhere. However, we consider it premature for Dr Lee to state his preferred option is this greenbelt site at Junction 8/9 simply because it has been offered and where each year we have the Littlewick Green Show.

Dr Lee advised us at the public meeting he had had no discussion with the Highways Agency and to propose, as he did, that the M4 be widened, that Junction 8/9 could be made into another 'Handy-Cross roundabout' as at High Wycombe, caused considerable alarm and opposition.

To alter this high level interchange at Junction 8/9 and widen the M4 would involve massive infrastructure disruption and costs and would have a devastating effect on the Parish of Bray containing two conservation villages.

We would point out the A308/A330 roads are already overloaded particularly at peak times. To introduce all the different hospital locations (11 in all) shown on the map in the booklet the 'Future Healthcare Plan' - including Hillingdon, Wycombe, Marlow, Wexham Park, Reading, Bracknell, Heatherwood etc on just one location is unrealistic.

In order to be helpful but also being mindful any such suggestion is also premature, land south of Junction 7 on the M4 nearer Slough with no high level interchange and easy access for the processing of high level effluent from the hospital and views over the Jubilee River could be worth considering.

Cllrs DAVID BURBAGE, DAVID COPPINGER, LEO WALTERS Bray.

The aforementioned Councillors, I suggest, are better placed than you are to judge the mood of your constituents, especially those who live in the Holyport Area.

Additionally, I can now advise that in the survey of the Holyport Area that the HRA recently carried out for the Local Plan Consultation we had a 10.88% response rate and within that 10.88%, - 88.49% said they do not want a hospital or housing on Area 5C. You can find the results of that survey in the HRA website - tab "Local Plan Consultation", "HRA Submission to RBWM" together with the rest of the Holyport Residents Association response to RBWM.

Within that you will also find two reports, one on Traffic, the other on Hydrology, commissioned by the Holyport Preservation Society, both of which conclude that building on Area 5C or 7A is not viable.

In the report by Dermot McCaffery MIHE MIRS0, Highways and Transportation Consultant as to why sites 5C and 7A are not suitable for development, he stated; "It is therefore my view that as a Highways and Transportation Consultant, I consider that development in either Area 5C or 7A is unsustainable."

In the report by Dr Harvey J.E. Rodda BSc (Hons) PhD MCIWEM Director of Hydrology at Hydro-GIS Ltd. as to why sites 5C and 7A are not suitable for development, he stated: "Overall the risk of flooding at both sites is considered as high and therefore the sites should be rejected as potential development areas."

In my letter below, I suggest that a new M4 motorway junction (J9) between existing J8/9 and J10 is long overdue and I give a location where it could conceivably be placed. I also give locations for roundabouts for a new road infrastructure associated with such an M4 Junction.

Dr Lee and yourself are too willing to impose traffic problems on us who live near M4 Junction 8/9. Let Dr Lee of Bracknell have his hospital in Bracknell or nearer to Bracknell at M4 J10 - or at the junction of the new J9 that I propose.

A new Junction 9 would also relieve the current J8/9 from the traffic that travels to and from it on a daily basis from areas to the West of J8/9.

My email of 31 Jan 2013 follows.

Sincerely

Andrew Cormie,
Chairman, Holyport Residents Association, Old Pines, Holyport Road, Maidenhead,
Berkshire
SL6 2HA

-----Original Message-----

From: Andrew Cormie [mailto:andrew@zembu.plus.com]
Sent: 31 January 2013 18:25
To: Theresa May (mayt@parliament.uk)
Cc: 'phillip@phillip-lee.com'; 'Cllr Burbage'; 'clerk@brayparishcouncil.gov.uk'; Adam Afriyie (afriyiea@parliament.uk); 'Cllr Coppinger'; 'cllr.walters@rbwm.gov.uk'; 'cllr.hill@rbwm.gov.uk'; 'cllr.cox@rbwm.gov.uk'; 'cllr.saunders@rbwm.gov.uk'; 'cllr.dudley@rbwm.gov.uk'
Subject: MP for Bracknell Dr Lee's Super Hospital proposal

Dear Theresa,

I have learned with much dismay and incredulity of your active support for Bracknell MP Dr Lee's hospital proposal in your constituency. This would result in residents living around M4 J8/9 having to suffer the increased road and air traffic arising from such a hospital.

You know very well that when you proposed such a hospital in the past it was overwhelmingly rejected by local residents and by the Bray Parish Council and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

So for you to give your support to Dr Lee is counter to the wishes of the majority of your constituents and their elected local representatives.

This is not behaviour that I expect or wish to see from my MP!

Rather than making things worse for your constituents by subjecting them to extra road and air traffic, you should be improving their lives by for instance ensuring that no Heathrow airport expansion takes place, and that night flights are reduced. Night flights are harmful to health, causing for instance increased blood pressure, cost to the economy in ill-health, early death and lack of productivity at work. I am also very much annoyed by the noise imposition by air taxi helicopters that fly over the back gardens of those such as myself who live on the South East side of Holyport Road. Further, as you are also a supporter of Cross Rail - and we know that it is coming, you should know that it will result in an increase of approximately 1000 vehicles per day to this area.

M4 Junction 8/9 is an extremely bad location for the proposed hospital because traffic on the road network local to J8/9 is already far too congested especially at peak times.

Traffic volume in this area is already so great that there is no way that the area can sustain the further increases in traffic which would result from the hospital. It seems very unlikely that emergency vehicles could urgently emerge from or gain access to this proposed hospital with any certainty.

Lee's report advises that he envisages handling 729,448 patients per year, and that some 6526 staff will be required. The amount of extra housing required for the staff and their families and the further pressure that the staff transport and their family transport will apply to local roads is a further problem. This will also impose extra housing requirements, whilst RBWM is already struggling to meet Central Government's current housing requirements.

The traffic from vehicles bringing visitors to the 1015 patients will add to the traffic for staff and in-patients. Further, as 1015 multiplied by 365 days per year equals 370475, it appears that Lee intends to deal with 358973 out-patients per annum, (729448 minus 370475), an average of 983 per day, and their transport would add further chaos to the situation.

We read in the Maidenhead Advertiser that 2820 car park spaces would be required. This appears to be far from sufficient as I see also that the staff number will be 6526.

Before you suggest new developments such as this hospital you should have commissioned, (at Central Government expense - not at RBWM ratepayers expense), a

comprehensive rigorous assessment of the numbers of and the origins and destinations of traffic within a 5 mile radius of Junction 8/9. This assessment should particularly determine the traffic situation in the rush hours on all roads leading to or from J8/9. There have been instances where traffic is backed up from J8/9 as far as the Oakley Court Hotel on the A308, and as far as Holyport on the A330. On these occasions Holyport Road (part of the B3028 from Bray to Holyport) which connects the A330 with the A308, becomes completely filled with traffic from the A330 to the A308. At the last Holyport Road traffic survey of which I am aware (July 2006), Holyport Road was subject to 7639 vehicles per day. The traffic level now must be far greater than 7639 per day.

Whilst writing, I see that in the letter page of the 31st Jan 2013 issue of the Maidenhead Advertiser, Cllr Dudley tells us that a very detailed technical analysis and traffic survey has been prepared for the proposed Holyport College intended to be situated on the A330. I would point out that the validity of any such traffic assessments taken on their own become useless if future traffic impositions on the same roads arise from such things as this proposed hospital.

If such a hospital has to be created somewhere, I suggest that it be near a new M4 motorway junction be created between current 8/9 and 10. This would of course be Junction 9 and 8/9 would become 8.

Such a junction is already well overdue as much J 8/9 traffic comes to J 8/9 from the sector lying to its South West to South.

Junction 9 could, for instance, be located at Grid Reference 856756 and could link to the South-East to a new roundabout at the junction at grid ref 860752, and perhaps onwards to ref 869736 (in Adam Afriyie's constituency). Also to the North-West to new roundabouts at 848759 and at 832760. I believe all of these except where mentioned are in your constituency.

If that new Junction existed, much traffic that currently feeds in and out of junction 8/9 would use the new junction. Roads local to that area would of course become new motorway feeder roads, to the detriment of residents in those areas. However, the residents on the existing feeder roads at J 8/9 have already suffered too much from excess traffic due to the lack of a junction in the area I have suggested.

Sincerely,

Andrew Cormie,
Old Pines,
Holyport Road,
Maidenhead,
Berkshire
SL6 2HA