

18/03417/FUL Chineham District Centre

Chineham Parish Council welcomes these proposals for an enhanced community resource in Chineham. We consider in general that this is a well thought out set of proposals.

However, the Parish Council objects to the application in its present form for the following reasons: We have very serious concerns about the proposed positioning of the relocated bus stops to the west of the site. This is for two reasons:-

1. We believe the proposed location to be inconvenient and potentially problematic and dangerous for users.
2. The proposals are for on-street stops and not for bus lay-bys which will lead to unacceptable congestion and dangerous driving.

1. Inconvenient location for users

There does not appear to be any access to the proposed bus stops from the southern end of the shopping area which could be a challenging distance from Tesco, the library, the proposed medical centre and other outlets in that area for older people and those with limited mobility, users of the medical centre, parents with young children and people with shopping trolleys who may then be required to cross the busy western access road with a shopping trolley to get to the bus stop.

2. Unsuitable location will lead to traffic congestion and dangerous driving

It is noted that the site is served by three bus routes with additional services operated by Basingstoke Community Transport. At the current bus stop on the north of the site it is not uncommon for there to be two and sometimes three buses to be waiting at one time. A proposed single "waiting" bus lay-by will be inadequate.

The western access road which is the proposed location for the relocated bus stops is the main road from the A33 to the very busy petrol filling station, the southern car park and service yards for around 15 retail units as well as an exit route from the east and west car parks onto Great Binfields Road.

With these proposals there is the potential for there to be buses at both on-street stops at the same time to take on and let off passengers which will very quickly lead to unacceptable traffic congestion. Any congestion would soon obstruct access from the east and west car parks and down to the roundabout at the entrance off the A33. There is already regular congestion at this point with traffic to and from the existing car park. For traffic leaving the proposed east and west car park, a bus waiting at the south bound stop will block the view of the main traffic stream through the Centre.

Motorists will overtake buses on both sides of a very busy road. This dangerous motorist behaviour is already in evidence when there is congestion in the current layout. This proposed new arrangement is considered a danger to all users of the route and the pedestrian access from Great Binfields Road.

The Parish Council considers that an integrated transport interchange should be provided in the southern car park for both buses and taxis which would be more accessible for users and where waiting buses and taxis would not obstruct the traffic flow through the Centre.

As an additional point of road safety we would wish to clarify that there will be a safe pedestrian and cyclist road crossing into the northern end of the site from Great Binfields Woods and the footpath leading from the A33. This is a main walking route to Great Binfields School for families living to the north of the A33 and it is absolutely vital that a safe road crossing is provided at that access point.

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