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13th February 2008

Dear Sirs

WCC LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Core Strategy Issues and Options consultation. The future of Whiteley is of great importance to the community, and the view of the Parish Council is summarised below:

Whiteley Parish Council supports a maximum expansion of 3000 houses to the North of Whiteley.

Notwithstanding the substantial development that has already taken place in and around the surrounding area, the Parish Council would support an expansion of Whiteley in order to facilitate the provision of improved facilities and infrastructure. The Parish Council believes the number of new homes should be limited to a maximum of 3000 mixed dwellings on land already identified to the North of Whiteley. New development should provide for the changing population from young families to older people so that the new and existing communities can fully integrate. Expansion to the east of Whiteley would not be supported due to lack of access /potential access to the centre of Whiteley and the need to maintain the Meon Strategic Gap.

Whiteley Parish Council expects current infrastructure deficits to be addressed prior to, or early in, the new development.

Given that the present Whiteley population has suffered from the failure to deliver key facilities and reduce road congestion, this support is on the strict understanding that the present deficiencies including schools, sports pitches and access roads are fully satisfied prior to, or early in, the new development. It is particularly disappointing that two distributor roads outwith the boundary of the City Council remain closed to all traffic, and consequently daily vehicle movements of around 5000 are placing an unacceptable burden on a local residential road and the people who live there.

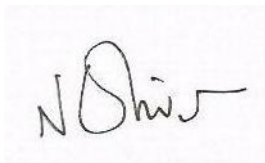
Whiteley Parish Council welcomes the City Council “hubs and clusters” concept and is keen to play a lead role as a ‘key hub’.

The Parish Council welcomes the initiatives being introduced by the City Council such as the “hubs and clusters” concept that will hopefully enhance the way in which business is conducted with its parishes and be a catalyst to improve local services planning and provision.

Whiteley Parish Council is carrying out a review of its 2004 Parish Plan to provide an updated strategic action plan for Whiteley which the community will expect to be respected and supported by Winchester City Council.

As Whiteley is likely to make a significant contribution to the District’s housing requirements in the next decade, the Parish Council believes it is essential that residents play a part in the future of their community. To this end we are updating the Whiteley Parish Plan, and there is a clear expectation that the detail contained in that Plan will influence the provision of infrastructure and community facilities.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Oliver', on a light-colored background.

Nicki Oliver
Parish Clerk