Comments

Site Specific Part 2 Local Plan - Publication Plan Consultation (18/12/19 to 12/02/20)

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Response Date 12/02/20 16:19
Consultation Point Policy DES3 Opportunity Environmental Improvement Sites in Desborough (View)
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Submission Type Web
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Representation

Please use a separate form for each representation.

Which part of the Publication Plan does your representation relate to?

We represent Wacoal Europe Ltd and have been asked to respond to this consultation on their behalf.

Wacoal Europe Ltd are a UK based supplier of high quality, fashion conscious lingerie and bra-sized swimwear stocked in over 5,000 retailers including national and independent stores, as well as online, in more than 30 countries. Whilst they have regional offices in London, Paris (France), Lyon (France), Krakow (Poland), New York (USA), Boston (USA), and Melbourne (Australia), Wacoal Europe Ltd.'s global head office and prime distribution facility faces onto Rothwell Road, Desborough.

Wacoal's Desborough premises comprise their main global distribution facility. Given the number of delivery vehicles that need ready access to their site on a daily basis, Wacoal are conscious of the impact on their business, direct or indirect, of changes to the road network and particularly the use, capacity, operation, signalling or layout of the B575 or any changes thereto. This includes any changes in capacity or use that could increase the likelihood for traffic incidents that could impede or curtail the use of the B576 and specifically servicing access to their premises.

A restricting factor for Wacoal is the fact that larger commercial deliveries can only access their premises from the national road network via a single route through the centre of Desborough. This is the route from the A6, via the B575 Harborough Road and then Rothwell Road. The reason being the 7.5 tonne weight restrictions placed upon the local road network surrounding Wacoal Europe Ltd.’s Desborough premises (principally to the B575 Rothwell Road south of its junction with Pioneer Avenue and also to Gold Street/ Braybrooke Road).

Wacoal would be opposed to any narrowing of the B576, or the reduction in carriage width at any of the various road junctions along the B576 within Desborough. The reason being that any narrowing will increase the proximity of larger delivery vehicles to other road users, particularly cyclists. Wacoal’s
view is that this will increase the potential risk of collisions and so threaten their business. Similarly, were the road to be narrowed, this would make travel along this stretch of the B576 less attractive to cyclists; in contract to KBC’s desire for a multi-modal shift away from car transport.

As regards cyclists, Wacoal’s preference would be for a distinct cycle way to be provided on the route of the B576 but not part of, and physically separated from the current carriageway. This would link the current cycle paths to the north of the railway bridge in Desborough with the cycle route from Rothwell which currently ends at the bridge over the River Ise.

Wacoal would also challenge some of the comments made as part of this consultation supporting requests for a narrowing of the B576: There appears to be insufficient evidence of major traffic incidents. Wacoal have not been provided with evidence that a narrowing of the road would have prevented the minor incidents recently recorded north of their premises.

**Tests of Soundness**

Do you consider the Local Plan is sound in terms of being:

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<td><strong>Justified</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td><strong>Effective</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Positively prepared</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td><strong>Consistent with National Policy</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
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**Legal and Procedural requirements**

Do you consider the Local Plan has been prepared in line with legal procedural requirements? Yes

**Duty to Cooperate**

Do you consider the Local Plan to be compliant with the Duty to Cooperate? Yes

**Attendance at the examinations hearings**

If you are seeking to change the Plan, would you like to attend the examination hearings? No

**Notifications**

Do you wish to be notified? When the Plan is submitted for independent examination? When the Inspector's Report is published? When the document is adopted?