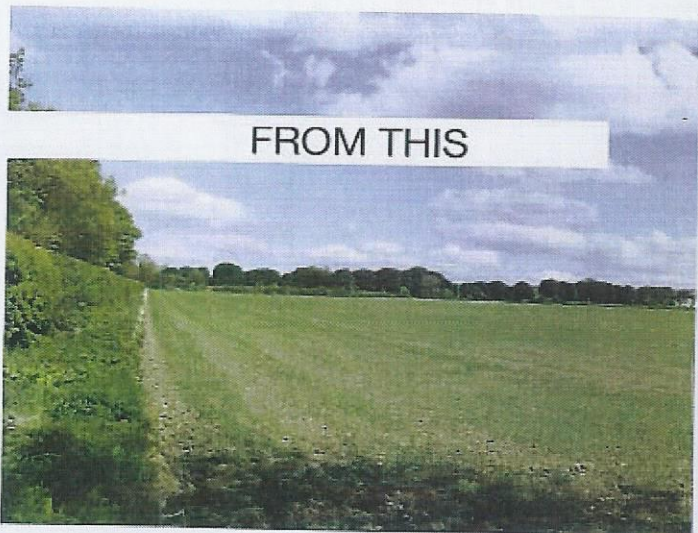


NEW BYPASS THREAT!!

PROPOSED WATLINGTON BYPASS

MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!



FROM THIS



TO THIS?

RECENT EVIDENCE

From examining road building schemes over the past 20 years, a report published by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) in March 2017 found clear evidence that road schemes:

- Induce traffic, often far above background trends.
- Lead to permanent and significant environmental and landscape damage.
- Show little evidence of economic benefit to local economies.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The proposed bypass is likely to have a significant impact on the local area. This could include the following:

- Generate additional traffic – the Council has failed to explore alternative highways solutions.
- Generate increased air pollution, as well as substantial noise and light pollution.
- Destroy the green buffer currently enjoyed between Pyton and Watlington.
- Impact on the setting of designated heritage assets, including listed buildings, registered park and garden, and conservation areas.

- Impacts on the setting of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); being a visual eyesore from Watlington Hill and the Chilterns.
- SODC's 2015 Landscape Capacity Assessment Report recommends the protection from development of one of the key open spaces that the bypass would extend through. It makes specific reference to the "Potential for harm to the setting of Watlington and the AONB."
- Increased flooding as the route could pass through areas at high risk.
- Highways safety issues for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as motorists. There will be potentially dangerous intersections with the B4009 and traffic choke points through Shirburn towards junction 6 of the M40.
- No consideration has been given to the need for expansion at Watlington Primary School and Icknield Community College, due to the hundreds of new homes. Also the proposed bypass may need to cut across the corner of the school grounds and athletics track.
- The current medical services will be strained to breaking point with the additional new houses.
- What would happen to the trade of businesses and shops in the centre of Watlington when bypassed?

HEADLINE POINTS

- A bypass is proposed around the western edge of Watlington.
- If built, it would extend through and destroy green spaces in Watlington and Pyrton.
- The bypass would lead to substantial additional traffic and environmental harm including air, light, and noise pollution.
- 400 new houses may need to be built to help pay for it!
- Do you really want that many new houses in Watlington? This would strain the local health, educational and community infrastructure even further.

BACKGROUND

- Land around the edge of Watlington is proposed for safeguarding to support the delivery of a bypass.
- It is envisaged that the bypass could extend across the route shown in white on the plan below.
- Details of the proposals are outlined within South Oxfordshire District Council's (SODC's) 'Second Preferred Options' document, prepared in connection with its emerging Local Plan.
- The Watlington Neighbourhood Plan also promotes the bypass, but it is unlikely to have the full support of a large number of residents alongside the associated new homes.
- Some estimates of the cost of building the bypass are in excess of £20 million. This could mean that 400 new homes need to be built to contribute towards its funding.



Potential bypass route alongside new housing

NEXT STEPS

SODC is consulting on the proposed bypass until 5pm on Wednesday 17th May 2017. You can submit your comments to ensure that your views are heard before it is too late!

These can be provided:

- Online at <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-second-preferred-options-consul>
- Via email to planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk
- Via post to Planning Policy, South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4SB

We hope you will join in resisting the irreversible damage that a bypass would cause to the local area!