

## Introduction

This document has been prepared by the **North Witney Action Group**, a group of concerned local residents from North Witney and New Yatt. Our residents have signed a petition of objection stating:

- *Developing North Witney will almost certainly fail to meet a major part of WODC's Kirkham Report recommendations, will cause significant adverse visual impact in the Wychwood Project Area, and create new traffic problems in Witney.*
- *The West End Link Rd will cause irreversible damage to the historic Windrush Valley floodplain, and increase traffic by 69% in the Witney Conservation Area.*
- *WEL2 will make Hailey Rd the 3rd busiest road in Witney, increase West End traffic flows to an historic high, and cause rat-running on New Yatt Rd/Farmers Close.*

In compiling this response to the WODC consultation, we have listened to the concerns of those who signed the petition alongside examining the WODC consultation documents and appendices.

We argue that the recent inclusion of the North Witney development (C3 and C4) within the proposed Local Plan is wrong and is not supported by the evidence.

We recognise that WODC has difficult and sensitive decisions to take. Space for new housing must be found. However, the long term vision for the development of Witney, over which WODC has exercised careful guardianship to this point, should not be sacrificed to short term gains proposed by profit-driven developers.

There are four key parts to our argument:

- The West End Link road (WEL) – a critical part of the North Witney proposal – would not meet key planning tests
- the North Witney development would aggravate already severe flood risks
- the North Witney development would have devastating consequences for our precious local environment and its wildlife
- There are better alternatives

In conclusion, we urge WODC to remove the North Witney proposals from the final Plan.