



Councillor
Andrew
Prosser

OBJECTION TO HAILEY ROAD HOUSING APPLICATION

Town planning committee objects to North Witney housing proposal

Witney Town Council's planning and development committee has objected to an application for 110 houses and flats west of Hailey Road - part of the wider 'North Witney' housing scheme (see back page). The reasons given included **traffic congestion, air quality concerns, and insufficient plans to deal with sewage** from the proposed housing development.

In particular, the committee highlighted concerns about **surface water** from the proposed development. Thames Water has also subsequently warned that **the existing foul water network cannot accommodate this** and that upgrades will likely be required if the development is to go ahead.

Andrew said "The sewage system can't cope. We as councillors want this situation to change and see an action plan from Thames Water to deal with the ongoing pollution problems."



Cllr Andrew Prosser on land allocated for housing as part of the North Witney development area

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL CHALLENGED ON CYCLE ROUTES

Town Councillor Andrew Prosser pushes for improvements across North Witney



Illustration of cycle lanes separated from traffic, as proposed on Hailey Road

Andrew has this month **pressed the County Council to provide safe cycle routes in North Witney**, after residents highlighted poor transport links, traffic and lack of cycle paths as areas of concern on a Green Party survey.

Andrew has called on the County Council to install safe, joined-up cycle routes that **link residents with the town centre and link children with all five schools in the area**. Safe routes are important not only for people getting around by bike. **Mobility scooter users also benefit.**

Residents wishing to add their voices to the campaign can sign an online petition at <http://chng.it/qwDYCSbw>.

NORTH WITNEY DEVELOPMENT AREA – LATEST NEWS

Update on plans to build 1400 new houses in North Witney

The North Witney Strategic Development Area (SDA) is allocated for **1,400 dwellings in the West Oxfordshire Local Plan 2031**. The SDA stretches from the site next to Hailey Road all the way east to the Woodstock Road and totals approximately 60ha of land. It largely comprises farmland and grassland, with areas of woodland, ponds, a stream and species-rich hedgerows.

The allocation also includes the construction of a **second road across the River Windrush known as the ‘West End Link’** and a **‘Northern Distributor Road’** running through the entire SDA.

There has been **opposition in the community** to the scheme as a whole, led by the North Witney Action Group, which has **concerns relating to flood risk, traffic level and landscape impacts**. Well over 1,000 people signed a petition against the development.

Housing in the area will be brought forward in multiple phases by different developers. In addition to the 110 dwellings in the west of the SDA (Planning Reference: 19/03317/FUL) there is a separate application for 200 dwellings in the east (Planning Reference: 14/01671/OUT).

Neither has yet been approved. **You can use the references in the paragraph above to see the applications for yourself**; just go to: <https://publicaccess.westoxon.gov.uk/online-applications/>.



POTHOLE FIX NOT A PATCH ON PROPER JOB

Long-term solution needed for hole on Bridge Street

After months, the gaping chasm of a pothole on Bridge Street was finally patched – **only to open up again within days**.

On a busy road like this, cyclists and drivers alike should expect a **quicker and more permanent fix**, which can only be delivered by resurfacing.

CAN WE HELP?

If you have a comment or query about our area, or would like to help with our campaigns, we would love to know. Here are the ways you can get in touch:



Councillor Andrew Prosser

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Join us for our next informal GREEN DRINKS:
Thursday 20 February and Thursday 19 March
7.30pm, upstairs at The Plough

NEWS IN BRIEF

YOUTH SERVICES: Councillor Andrew Prosser is a member of a new **Town Council working party** set up to support and help coordinate youth and children’s services in Witney.

FARMERS CLOSE HEDGING: The Town Council has **secured funds to plant a hedge to screen the scrap-yard site**, once boundary issues have been resolved.

NORTH WITNEY ON FACEBOOK: A ‘North Witney Community’ Facebook group has been set up by our team, aiming to help residents **keep up-to-date on community news**.

ANDREW PROSSER: WORKING HARD FOR WITNEY NORTH