

Traffic

I am the member of the WDC Executive and the portfolio holder for development. My biggest challenge is the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which needs to address the demand on our infrastructure for over 16,000 new homes over the next 15 years. Locally those of us who use the A429 on a regular basis are aware of the current traffic congestion problems on this road before most of the new homes are completed.

In the initial planning for the District's Local Plan, Barford was originally identified as being capable of taking 60 new homes. The final number has now increased to 150 homes (an increase of 150% from that seen as capable for this community). Wellesbourne has already been identified by Stratford DC as being capable of taking hundreds more houses. We then fast forward to the day when these many houses are completed and the problem only gets much worse.

We are all aware that consideration is being given to the development of the Wellesbourne site for housing and/or industry. This is a large site and will generate an even more large volume of traffic (both private and commercial).

Let us also not forget that Jaguar Landrover are also expanding their operations and this will only add to today's traffic congestion. In addition the largest construction project this country has undertaken since the war – HS2 – will involve a massive increase in construction traffic for the next five years.

Now consider what a large industrial scale quarry will do. The developer has indicated that the quarry will add 700 trucks per week to this road. We then have to add road sweepers which are necessary to clear mud from the main road, we have cars for those people working at the site and finally there are the trucks delivering infill to the quarry.

This over view I have painted is for the reasonable foreseeable future, the workings at the quarry will continue for at least 20 years. There is no doubt that over that period of time even more development will take place meaning more traffic.

Heavy trucks are large, slow moving, noisy, cumbersome and dirty. The addition of such vehicles is a recipe for disaster on a local highway network never designed for such a heavy volume of commercial traffic and the impact on traffic flow will be massive. We know that frustration leads to accidents and the potential for even more accidents on this already accident-prone road will be increased. Trucks are noisy and the A429 passes very close to the nearby villages and there is no doubt that the quality of life for those living close to the road will be adversely affected. The exhaust from these heavy trucks will add to the air pollution in the local environment already at unsafe levels and will further affect the quality of life of those living near the road.

I urge you to consider these adverse impacts when considering the viability of such a massive intrusion on this local community.