

NeighbourhoodPlanning

From: Gaynor Gallacher [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 August 2024 13:45
To: NeighbourhoodPlanning
Subject: Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan - National Highways comments

Dear Neighbourhood Planning team

Thank you for providing National Highways with the opportunity to comment on the Reg 16 submission version of the Wimborne St Giles Neighbourhood Plan.

National Highways is responsible for operating, maintaining and improving the strategic road network (SRN) which in this case comprises the A31 trunk road which passes approximately 12km to the south of plan area. The local highway network provides a number of potential connections to the A31 including the B3078 via Wimborne and the B3081 via Verwood. It is acknowledged that many of the SRN junctions along the A31 corridor experience congestion during peak periods.

Having reviewed the plan's proposed policies, we consider that these are unlikely to lead to a scale of development that would adversely impact on the safe and efficient operation of the SRN, in accordance with policy contained within DfT Circular 01/2012 *The strategic road network and the delivery of sustainable development* and the NPPF. We therefore have no specific comments to offer on the policies within the plan. However, it should be noted that any large scale development that may come forward within the plan area and has the potential to impact on the A31 will need to be supported by a transport assessment in line with the requirements of DfT Circular 01/2022 and the National Planning Policy Framework. Any impacts on the SRN which are considered severe or unacceptable in capacity or safety terms will require mitigation in line with current policy.

In terms of the emerging Dorset Council Local Plan, we look forward to continuing to work with the Council in developing their transport evidence base to understand the impact of their proposed spatial strategy on the SRN, and any requirements for mitigation at key strategic junctions which may be necessary to accommodate proposed growth.

This does not however prejudice any future responses National Highways may make on site specific applications as they come forward through the planning process, which will be considered by us on their merits under the prevailing policy at the time.

Kind regards
Gaynor

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