

Subject:	West of England Joint Transport Strategy - Consultation
From:	M H Delap (mhdelap@gmail.com)
To:	comment@jointplanningwofe.org.uk;
Cc:	ingrid.freshfordpc@gmail.com; njsfreshford@googlemail.com; brpaine@btinternet.com; aorme@btinternet.com;
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The following comments on the aims and ambitions of the work being carried out on the West of England Joint Transport Strategy are specific to the interest and concern of Freshford Parish Council, which sits on the left bank of the River Avon to the east of Bath. The parish lies in the Green Belt and the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is severed by the A36.

We appreciate that development of the Joint Transport Strategy is still at an early stage and that there will be other opportunities to comment.

However, we wish to register during this consultation phase our opposition to any of the suggested routes for a link between the A36 and A46 trunk roads that would cross the Avon valley to the east of Bath and might be part of the Joint Transport Strategy. If it were sited at the western end of the valley it would gravely damage the setting of the World Heritage Site (WHS) and if it were to be further east so as to limit that damage to the WHS it would irreparably spoil the Green Belt and the AONB that is the Limpley Stoke Valley. Protection of the Green Belt is a key proposal in the Joint Spatial Plan, as it is in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The many claimed advantages of the suggested A36/A46 link have all been rigorously challenged but so far as the parish of Freshford is concerned the consequence of a multiplying of the amount of traffic, in particular of HGVs, on the A36 is, alongside the spoiling of the beauty of the valley, amongst the greatest of our worries .

This is what we oppose but may we finish on a constructive note? Any Transport Strategy for the area must not ignore the upgrading of the A350 from Junction 17 of the M4 to trunk status as a viable alternative to the A46/A36 route from Junction 18. We understand this proposal to have the support of Wiltshire Council.

If it helps to understand better the aspirations and position of the Freshford community on planning matters please go to www.freshfordvillage.com and click on 'Freshford & Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan 2014-2039'. This was prepared jointly with Limpley Stoke Parish Council and has been adopted by both B&NES and Wiltshire Councils.

M H Delap
Chairman, Freshford Parish Council
01225 722524
07973 431474

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Attachments

- VPA Joint Transport Study - response.docx (21.32 KB)