

Axminster Town Council

ON P17 AT 3.10 please amend to read "vital housing growth AND EMPLOYMENT PROVISION in Axminster"

ON P.30 PARA 6.10 EMPLOYMENT PROVISION - by a majority, Axminster Town Councillors favoured the re-instatement of the land previously allocated for employment at Abbey Gate because of the advantageous position in relation to the A35.

Axminster Town Council is mindful that the loss of identity as a market town must be addressed and that this can best be achieved by looking to expand the employment opportunities in the town. To do this requires a pool of employees for which housing will be needed. Therefore, Axminster Town Council supports the policy on new homes. Axminster Town Council supports the policy on jobs but a majority of the Councillors would like to see the retention of the site at Abbey Gate to the South of the town for employment. Axminster Town Council considers that solutions to the traffic congestion issues are glossed over and need to be fleshed out in greater detail in order to be credible. Axminster Town Council should feel that the town should capitalise on the fact that there is scope for the railway station (a gateway to the Jurassic Coast and which we hope will have a half-hourly service sooner rather than later) to develop as an inter-modal transport hub, with provision within the station site for more parking and/or within the town for park and ride and intra town bus services as well as cycle racks for use by those wishing to link to the near-by Stop Line Way cycle route. It would be interesting to see how planners felt that "through route large vehicle traffic" could be managed other than by a relief road. Axminster Town Council supports the environment policy.

8.1 More detail is needed on town centre regeneration and measures to address (p64) adverse traffic impacts. There seem to be conflicting statements in places Paras 8.2/8.3 Axminster Town Council does not support the contention that the North-South relief road would increase traffic over all nor that it would move congestion to other parts of the town. The basis for these comments is not apparent. p65 "Road and public space improvements and circulation controls should minimise local traffic levels, improve through-traffic flow and enhance townscape and safety in town centre." Axminster Town Council would challenge these comments which show a lack of detailed consideration of possible solutions to the problems of managing through traffic in such a way that a central pedestrianised area could be created. Such an area would depend on the provision of a relief area. That is why it is viewed as a key issue. A further key issue is how to resolve the problems arising from the bottleneck caused by Weycroft Bridge. Ideally this should be included in the relief road scheme. P66 Para 8.5 would benefit from being put more simply and clearly. What is "food retention shopping"? P66 Para 8.7 add "and other smaller meeting halls". P66 para 8.9 Final bullet point. Could the reasoning behind this policy (which is given in the box on P69) be inserted at this point as well. P69 8.10.2 Axminster Town Council would like this to be reinstated.

p67 Para 8.9 Please could the words "by-pass" be replaced by the words "RELIEF ROAD"

Additional comments re p67 Para 8.9 Axminster Town Council feels that the wording of this paragraph (which, it is noted, has been lifted directly from the LDF Preferred Approach document which opposed a North-South Relief Road) implies a lack of commitment to the need for a relief road as it suggests that if the transport infrastructure measures to reduce private car use were implemented then all would be well. There is no acknowledgement of the fact that the Medieval street layout is utterly unable to cope with the ever bigger and heavier goods vehicles authorised by the European Parliament. There would appear to be conflicts with p174/5 Policy D1 3b and P223 para 21.124. Please could the wording of the final sentence in this paragraph be amended to read

"Axminster is in the process of examining possible traffic management schemes" rather than it being implied that any such schemes have been carried out in the town as yet.