

Letter from Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council

Dear Mr Giddings.

I have recently had it confirmed by Hampshire County Council that the average traffic volume through Hurstbourne Tarrant on the A343 is about 5,000 vehicles per 24 hours. From the Traffic Assessment for the Andover Airfield Development Planning Application 07/01951/OUTN it states that on average an additional 37 vehicles per hour will travel from the site through our lovely village. I suspect that this figure, according to the developers of 888 vehicles per day, will be an underestimate as, with almost no unemployment in Andover and little available housing, many of those working at the warehouse will have to commute from Newbury and elsewhere along the A343. This figure represents an increase of over 17%, yet the developers have failed to carry out any assessment of the impact on the environment in HBT or a risk assessment. As you know well, there is a school crossing point on a narrow blind bend in the centre of the village which is, even with the present volume of traffic, a serious hazard.

We had three accidents on the A343 within the village limits last month and, so far, one this month, fortunately none of them has been fatal. I understand that as only one of them caused a serious blockage that the others are unlikely to have been recorded. I do not believe that the A343, which as you know is a single carriageway road with very few passing places, will be able to sustain this increase in the volume of traffic and, if this development is allowed to go ahead without a routing agreement to prevent vehicles serving the site from using the A343, the increase in traffic will inevitably lead to serious accidents.

3. Lord Howell has stated that the A303 could not cope with the volume of traffic envisaged by this development and will inevitable become blocked.

The Developers and Tesco have stated that in such an event, their systems would re-direct the traffic to the site by alternative routes. I would be grateful if you would consider this when the planning application is being reviewed and insist that:

A proper risk assessment is made of all the roads, which might be used by traffic visiting the site, especially the:

- (1) A343, especially in Enham Alamein, Hurstbourne Tarrant and Highclere
- (2) A342 through Ludgershall, Collingbourne Ducis etc
- (3) A343 through Middle Wallop
- (4) B3400 through Hurstbourne Priors and Whitchurch

B. A routing agreement to prevent traffic to the site using these routes except when the A303 (East of Amesbury) or the A34 (South of Newbury but North of Bullington Cross) are closed by the police due to an accident.

Yours sincerely,

Rupert Conder