



# Waldringfield Parish Council

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## A12 improvements: A14 'Seven Hills' to A1152 Woods Lane Consultation Response by Waldringfield Parish Council, 19/3/2021

### General Comments

The A12 in the Martlesham and Woodbridge areas is already highly congested, and this will certainly get worse when traffic is added from the 2,000 new homes at Brightwell Lakes, Sizewell C construction, the Felixstowe Port expansion and Freeport proposals, 200 new homes at the Suffolk Police site in Martlesham, and several other developments in the area. Waldringfield Parish Council (WPC) therefore understands that there is a need for improvements to the A12 and its junctions to accommodate this extra traffic, but we are concerned that increasing road capacity often results in more car use. The way to avoid this is to dramatically improve public transport and to encourage more walking and cycling. The proposals go some way to doing that, but will make little difference without far more extensive changes to public transport and cycling facilities provision beyond the remit of this scheme.

### Traffic Lights and 'rat-runs'

WPC welcomes the use of traffic lights using the 'MOVA' system, mainly because it will improve road safety. However, we are concerned that it will encourage drivers to use 'rat-runs', in particular the Newbourne Road, which provides an alternative route from the Foxhall Rd roundabout to the A12/A1214 roundabout without having to negotiate a single set of traffic lights. There are no proposals in the plans to deter the use of 'rat-runs'.

### Brightwell Lakes

It is good that the scheme takes into account the approved 2,000 home development at Brightwell Lakes, however apart from indicating it on a map, no mention is made of the new A12/Brightwell Lakes access junction. It is unclear if the impact of this junction has been taken into account in the traffic modelling.

### Walking and Cycling

We approve of the aim to make the A12 less of a barrier to people walking and cycling, and support the new pedestrian/cycle bridge (or underpass). The North option seems to make more sense as it feeds directly into the Martlesham Heath road and cycle path system. The controlled crossing at the Anson Road/Beardmore Park Junction is also welcome; generally there should be more of these.

### The Impact of Home Working

The COVID-19 epidemic has resulted in a massive increase in people working from home. This trend is likely to continue, but is not mentioned in the scheme, and presumably has not been taken into account in the traffic modelling.

### The Impact of Sizewell C Construction Traffic

*"The Scheme considers the increase construction phase traffic flows proposed by the Sizewell C development in developing the junction improvements and delivery would be programmed to be completed before 2028."* It is extremely unlikely that the Sizewell C development will be completed by 2028 – the current estimate is that construction will continue until 2034, assuming no delays.