

**DR. CAROLINE LUCAS**

Green Party

for the South East of England

John Hamilton  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Speedwell House  
Speedwell Street  
Oxford OX1 1NE

December 8<sup>th</sup> 2005

Dear Mr Hamilton,

Re: Planning Application W.16/04 Cogges Link Road

Further to my previous letters concerning the Cogges Link Road, I would like your reassurance that my objections will be presented to the Planning Committee when it meets early in 2006 to consider the planning application. I would also like to take this opportunity to impress upon you, once more, the potential for the ecologically diverse Windrush valley to be damaged beyond repair should the current Link Road proposal go ahead.

I understand that the Planning Inspector's report does not come down clearly in favour of the Link Road and raises questions about environmental impact and the relationship with proposed housing developments. In particular he reported: "The CLR would cause major environmental impact on the Windrush valley. The Cogges Link should be removed from the Local Plan as a policy but the route should be preserved pending detailed examination of other options through the Local Development Framework process." To override the Inspectors recommendations, as West Oxfordshire District have chosen to do is an example of negligence. It shows a complete lack of regard for the principles of sustainable development and disrespect for the views of local people, given that the Planning Inquiry was called because of significant local opposition to the scheme. I trust that Oxfordshire County Council will adopt a more responsible approach.

I believe that the Inspector made reference to the Shores Green alternative, which I also mentioned in my previous correspondence. As I am sure you are aware, the granting of planning permission for housing has pre-empted this option but the matter has been referred to the Ombudsman. I would urge you to look closely again at this option and at measures to both reduce car use and encourage modal shift.

Yours sincerely,



Caroline Lucas - Green Party MEP

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