

**PLANNING WORKING PARTY REPORT
DRAFT RESPONSE TO THE FOUNDRY LEA CONSULTATION**

Because of the short time allowed for response to the consultation (**now apparently extended to 17th January**), we have been unable to deal with all the issues raised by the plan. **But, in general, we feel that insufficient attention has been given to the wider impact on the area west of Bridport.**

The previous outline application WD/D/17/000986, covered access but left more detailed plans, including the internal road layout, to be dealt with in this current application as “reserved matters” This means theoretically that we can’t comment on access matters because they are already approved, but a lot has happened since the outline plan was prepared (2016?) and approved (2018). We believe this may require some modification of the approved plans.

Traffic on the A 35 has increased as a result of increased tourism (and not only because of ‘staycationing’ during Covid restrictions). Also, we have had to recognise the risks of extreme weather events, fires and floods related to the climate emergency and even terrorist attacks. What if Foundry Lea or western parts of Bridport had to be evacuated in a hurry?

Access into Bridport from the west.

Our parishioners, like those in other parishes west of the town, depend on Bridport for basic shopping trips as well as medical and dental services, cultural, health and leisure facilities. Their lives are seriously affected if they cannot easily get into Bridport. [In that case, people might choose to go to Axminster instead, thus depriving Bridport businesses of trade.]

During the last 2 years, traffic on the A 35 has very noticeably increased. The A35 is already seriously congested, particularly in the holiday season and Journeys into town are taking an increasingly long time. This affects bus services as well as motorists, and traffic generated by Foundry Lea is bound to make things worse. There are no other routes into town from the West which are suitable for anything other than immediately local traffic. Past attempts by motorists to use the narrow local lanes when there is a problem on the A 35 have resulted in complete gridlock. **A lot depends on the design of the new Miles Cross junction which may need updating in view of the recent changes.**

More locally, reliance on West Road alone to take all traffic into and out of Foundry Lea seems extremely risky. This is only a B road and already subject to congestion between the proposed Foundry Lea access points and the town centre, and in the centre itself. Any blockage in West Rd would have serious impacts on the whole local road system as well as making it hard for Foundry Lea residents, workers and emergency vehicles to get in and out of the estate by car.

Emergency planning for Foundry Lea and Bridport as a whole.

We don’t know what sort of emergencies might occur in future, but it seems sensible to plan so that Foundry Lea and West Bridport could be speedily evacuated if necessary. **We believe that there should be an additional route from Foundry Lea linking the estate (and West Bridport) to the A35 somewhere between Miles Cross and the Crown Roundabout.** Such a route would be unavailable to motorists in normal times but could be opened up in case of need. Alternatively, it might be permanently open, but for emergency vehicles only. [This might be done by a short link from the Foundry Lea loop road, through the westernmost residential area, to the A35 north of the recycling centre.]