



Halton Parish Council
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Parish Clerk: Mrs Fiona Lippmann

24 Aug 20

Philip Quigley
Principal Manager
Defence Infrastructure Organisation (DIO)

Copy to:
Jeremy Sawtell DIO
Station Commander, RAF Halton

Dear Phil,

HALTON PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RAF HALTON SITE

Thank you for sharing the public consultation documents. As these documents are not available on the Government website we will publish them on our own website for our parishioners to view and comment.

As a primary stakeholder in the development of the RAF Halton site, the Parish Council is very pleased to see that your indicative layout is compliant with the green belt, and the historic parkland in which it is situated. We fully support the outline principles of building a community around green and open spaces, in keeping with the architecture and heritage of the Village, and the legacy of the Royal Air Force.

We note that your approach to the blue line area "takes into consideration future development of the whole site." This makes eminent sense, rather than taking a piecemeal approach, and enables the Council to assess the overall requirement for schools, infrastructure, transport and connectivity.

However, we are keen for a meeting with the DIO to ensure our understanding of the overall vision and wider picture.

One aspect of concern to us is that the new proposed village centre is currently bisected by a busy road (B4009); even with the pedestrian subway this would detract from the cohesive community that we are very keen to create. Our view is that the 'new' Halton village amenities should be sited together on one side of the road. We feel that such alignment would enable ready, convenient and safe access, and thereby attract a greater active interest by parishioners. Our central aim is to build and maintain a strong sense of a shared and valued community identity. Primarily, we will be a residential community. But, we are keen to explore how appropriate, small business enterprises that could offer local employment opportunities could be incorporated into the Plan.

Covid 19 has certainly highlighted the importance of green spaces and alternative transport in significantly mitigating both health and social risk. We welcome your intention to maintain our highly valued green neighbourhood by enhancing footpaths, cycle routes and further developing the existing green corridors. The retention of community sports areas, provision of a village green and allotment sites are very important facilities to Halton parishioners – current and future.

Your predecessor Charles Millest asked Halton Parish Council to identify appropriate land for allotments. We understand that detailed planning will identify allotment sites for the Henderson and Maitland areas. The DIO outlined that an allotment site should be within a 10 minute walk of the

majority of the dwellings it serves. An Allotment Working Group comprising Councillors and Parishioners, conducted a survey to identify a suitable site. I am pleased to submit the Report at Enclosure 1 for the DIO's consideration.

As mentioned earlier, Halton Parish Council would very much welcome a meeting so that we can be briefed on the "future development of the entire site" and to discuss the DIO's thoughts on the Allotments Report. We would suggest that this takes place in the autumn, (perhaps the beginning of October?) when your successor Jeremy Sawtell is in post; a good opportunity to meet and foster our working relationship with Jeremy as the Plan matures further.

We look forward to hearing from you regarding our points and proposals – and to schedule a meeting. As ever, please do contact us on any aspect that you wish us to clarify.

Yours Sincerely

Caroline Waddams

Chair Halton Parish Council

Enclosure 1 – Halton Village Allotments Report

A – Location Recommendation

B – Operating Costs

C – Site Evaluations