



## **Andover Road Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Why has CALA taken the decision to divert the existing Andover Road?**

We believe that the road diversion is an integral and essential part of the whole development proposal to ensure that Barton Farm is fully integrated with the city centre and neighbouring communities. Andover Road, with its 40-50mph traffic speeds currently presents a significant barrier between the existing community of Weeke / Harestock and what will become the new development.

We are driven by the desire to ensure that Winchester gets the right development, not the most cost effective one. Barton Farm will be a development we can all be proud of and raise Winchester's profile as a dynamic city.

The development's new local centre will have the feel of a High Street, and the vitality and viability of this is reliant on the re-routing of Andover Road. We are providing a new urban quarter that will be a 'destination' in its own right, a vibrant area with its own heart and soul.

### **How will this change benefit the wider community?**

We were challenged by the Council to 'think radically' and, in doing so, we have created a different entrance to the City, establishing a new and exciting experience that is more dramatic and striking than any of the current approaches.

A full Transport Assessment was carried out as part of the outline planning application which looked at the impact that the diversion would have on other road junctions and surrounding routes. This found there would be no significant adverse impacts arising from the proposals.

### **What will be the impact of the proposed changes on road safety?**

The new road will embrace modern design rather than follow a traditional dated estate road approach, facilitating natural frontage development. Traffic calming measures will be incorporated which will encourage pedestrian activity and reduce vehicle speeds. We believe the changes will therefore enhance road safety.

### **What will happen to the existing Andover Road?**

Removing traffic from the old road provides the opportunity to create Andover Walk – a new pedestrian and cycle-friendly green corridor and linear parkway. This will benefit both new and existing residents and will, of course, be particularly advantageous to those already living on Andover Road.

Re-routing through traffic also provides for the possible expansion of Henry Beaufort School into the development site without the segregating effect of a busy through traffic route. Our scheme enables Andover Road to be closed completely where it runs alongside the school playing fields, facilitating their extension if required in the future.



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### **Did you consider leaving the road where it is?**

We considered all possible proposals in full, but firmly believe that the solution to re-route the road is the right one for both new and existing residents. Not doing so would mean the area would experience none of the benefits previously mentioned.

Reducing vehicle speeds on an existing road is inherently more difficult than designing a new one from scratch. There would be considerable practical difficulties in retaining Andover Road as it presently is and creating new junctions into the new development, including significant impact on existing houses and the avenue of trees which are an important defining feature in the area. Creating frontage development down the east side of Andover Road would lead to yet further tree loss.

Our proposals are strongly supported both by the City Council as planning authority and County Council as highway authority. The Appeal Inspector also found in favour of the changes, citing the benefits of the new Andover Walk in providing a 'quieter route for people to enjoy through walking and cycling'. She also said 'there is no reason why New Andover Road should not provide an attractive landscaped route towards the city centre' and refers to a 'safer road environment' being created.

### **What happens next?**

Although the principle of the road diversion was agreed within the outline planning permission, the detail of the new road and how it will operate will be subject to further public consultation. We will, therefore, continue to involve the local community in our plans as they develop.