

Traffic NOISE

... only appeared in the WNP Website Evidence Base in June 2019, near the end of Final Public Consultation. It relates to Traffic Management (on which WNP / WPC will commence work with OCC once the Draft WNP has been 'made' after Examination and Referendum. We believe that a noise-free surface is due on the North to match similar surfacing on the south side of the A40 Bypass some years ago. Noise from the Bypass affects gardens on Old London Rd, back gardens on the North side of London Rd and across much of the village when the wind is in the north. Where Waterperry Rd joins Old London Rd under the A40 embankment opposite the Fire Station, a perceived 'noise box' and pollution 'canyon' combine. Old London Rd residents are complaining of pollution. [WNP website, EB Research, Nos 13, 14 and 15, Air Quality.]

Three Committee members – David Mancey, Andrew Johnson and John Fox visited Mill Green in early May 2019, primarily to invite the newest residents in the village to Final Public Consultation. We decided to ask an open question about noise, too. 'Is there an Issue ?' On 9, 13, 15 and 17 Sept., 2015, **AJ** had taken Noise Measurements mid-way along the boundary of the proposed proposed Mill-Green site with the A40 bypass. This was before construction began on site late in 2016. See below **Appendix 1, Noise Measurements – September 2015**.

DM had worked at Brookes Wheatley Campus 1980-95. He remembered taking noise measurements there (north of the A40) from outside the campus buildings. The A40 dual carriageway bypass was built in 1970. Figures increase exponentially – an 80 decibels increase from 70 decibels equates roughly to a doubling. Add to this, the heavy increase in traffic / HGVs in the last 50 years since the A40 was constructed. Just north of that, the M40 was added in 1990

This single question evoked a good response, but it is no more than an indicative sketch survey. Mill Green is the one development completed in Wheatley since WNP Committee convened in Jan 2016, but it does not fall within the Committee's brief. WNP contact was made (over two evenings) with 33 (64% of) residents). The three Committee members took on 17 houses/homes each. The development is divided into Breame Oak Drive and Ochre Close, neither of which have a house/home numbered '13 - possibly respecting people's concerns, as in many hotels. See below, **Appendix 2. Breame Oak Drive – Resident Responses (AJ)**

DM and **JF** had similar responses to those tabulated by **AJ**.

Concerns about soundproofing **between** a small number of homes – issue under discussion. London Rd side (**3**) found it quiet, **1** found it noisy.. Door and window insulation praised. 'White noise helps me sleep'. 'I love noise, my husband doesn't'. All homes have their gardens shielded from the A40 by buildings, yet, (**1**) 'Noisier in garden than in house'. 'Knew it before we bought.' At least **14** said 'You get used to it. Not a problem.'

We hope this may be useful to the post-WNP Infrastructure Working Party with WPC/HPC & OCC

David Mancey

Andrew Johnson

John Fox (Chair, WNP Committee)

June 2019

Appendices 1 and 2 attached.