

Consultation responses about the NEV

1. Suggestions to redirect Covingham bus service to Eldene and make it more accessible for Morrison's and Great Western Hospital

Decisions relating to individual bus routes and frequencies of service are made by the private sector bus operating companies. As build out of the NEV development progresses and affects travel demand patterns, Swindon Borough Council anticipates bus operators will review routes from a commercial basis.

2. Concerns over Great Western Hospital and Wanborough surgery capacities resulting from the additional NEV residences.

Swindon Borough Council is in discussion with Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to determine appropriate capacity requirements needed to meet additional demand for health care services from NEV residents.

3. Who is promoting the New Eastern Villages development?

Swindon Borough Council is the Planning Authority and not the scheme promoter. The New Eastern Villages are being promoted by privately owned house builders and landowners. The Council has identified and agreed the principle of development through the site allocation process in the Local Plan, but the Council does not deliver the development itself. The Council will still consider all planning applications on their merits, including the transport implications. The Council has secured funding to deliver the transport package in advance of the development, to minimise the impact on local communities.

4. Does Swindon need so much additional housing?

Swindon's housing needs to the year 2026 have been identified through the Local Plan process. The adopted Local Plan has been subject to full scrutiny at Public Inquiry and identifies the need for future housing supply in Swindon. The New Eastern Villages development is an allocation within the Local Plan to address this need.

5. When will the New Eastern Villages be constructed?

Housing is anticipated to be built out as the market requires, and is expected to take a period of approximately 10 to 15 years. The NEV programme is intended to deliver the transport infrastructure ahead of the bulk of the housing.

6. Consultees asked why Great Stall Bridge will potentially only accommodate public transport.

Delivery of Great Stall Bridge has been deferred to post 2021, final decision regarding whether it is open to all traffic or public transport only will be made when the scheme comes forward.

7. Consultees asked what the improvements of M4 J15 are.

All slip roads leading from the M4 to the Junction 15 roundabout will be widened as will the A346 approach to the junction from Marlborough. The improvements will increase the capacity of the junction, reducing congestion and improving safety for drivers. The package of improvements include widening the southbound carriageway of the A419 between the Commonhead Roundabout and Junction 15.

8. Concerns were expressed around the consideration of climate change.

Addressing climate change is a strategic objective of the adopted Swindon Borough Local Plan. Climate change is addressed through planning policies that promotes high quality and well-designed sustainable development that balances economic, social and environmental considerations. The NEV Policy NC3 of the Local Plan seeks to achieve a balanced sustainable community by ensuring there is a comprehensive approach to development and securing the appropriate infrastructure.

9. Consultees suggested providing walkways and cycle routes to connect NEV with Shrivenham and Watchfield.

This will be discussed at the Oxfordshire liaison meeting.