

## Comments on Planning Application 23/02391/ADV

The Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum (WNF) is a statutory consultee which seeks to represent the views (in relation to planning matters) of residents in the Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan area, which includes Oxford North. The Wolvercote Neighbourhood Plan (WNP) is a legally made plan approved overwhelmingly by our residents in a referendum in May 2021.

**23/02391/ADV** This is an application for “**Display of non-illuminated hoarding signs (amended plans and amended description). Land West Of Oxford Moat House Godstow Road Oxford Oxfordshire.**” It is part of the Oxford North development. Oxford North’s application to proceed was subject to a number of requirements relating to biodiversity and landscaping in addition to constraints during the construction period as part of its approval process. These include maintenance or enhancement of wildlife corridors, improving biodiversity, and refraining from detriment to neighbours and the general public during construction phases, including views and road safety.

The WNF Steering Committee has considered the application concerning the advertisement hoarding, and considers that in a number of respects the application is unacceptable. **WNF therefore objects to permission being granted.**

### Reasons for objecting

1) The applicants have **not made a case for the necessity of this hoarding**. It is **not required** for the progressing of Oxford North nor **to mitigate its impact on the surroundings**.

2) **At 407 metres long, and nearly 2.5 metres high, it is far bigger than necessary as an advertisement**. The diagrams provided, which show the proposed wording and pictures, indicate that some of the drawings could be even taller than the 2.4m applied for, which is itself egregious.

**This is visually disproportionate; the lettering, pictures and backlit displays will be a distraction to drivers and a detriment to road safety for all users. This is unsafe.**

3) **Over time the initial promises of hedgerow provision along the A40 corridor have been eroded, but this locale and border was a wildlife corridor**. Under its 2018/19 biodiversity commitments, and in keeping with the WNP’s support for our biodiversity and soil health, TWO and its agents should be **concentrating on replanting this corridor at the earliest opportunity, rather than erecting fencing or a hoarding which will then have to be removed** at some undefined future point, to the further detriment of recovering wildlife and soil structures.

From Wolvercote Neighbourhood Forum Steering Committee:

Paul Buckley (Chair), John Bleach, Mary Brown, Tony Dale, Suzy Donald, Katherine Kaye, Richard Lawrence-Wilson, Andrew Siantonas, David Stone.

18 December 2023