



The Friends of Abingdon  
Civic Society

### **Re: Re-siting of pelican crossings in Ock Street and Marcham Road, Abingdon**

The Friends of Abingdon Civic Society objects to the proposals to re-site the pelican crossings in Ock Street and Marcham Road, Abingdon-on-Thames, in an attempt to alleviate the traffic problems at the Ock Street/Drayton Road/Marcham Road/Spring Road mini-roundabout. We are aware that these proposals are a condition for the housing development to the east of Drayton Road to go ahead, and that there is no other reason for this.

Members of the Friends of Abingdon attended the public enquiry regarding this development held in May 2013 and were very surprised that the discussion of the traffic problems in Drayton Road and the surrounding area, which were the basis of many of the objections submitted to Vale of White Horse District Council, was based on computer modelling. In fact, the Inspector stated at the outset that he would visit the site at the end of the hearing but that this site visit would not play any part in the deliberations leading to his decision.

Now, Oxfordshire County Council, which originally objected to this development particularly with regard to the traffic problems, seems to have accepted that re-siting of the pelican crossing will solve these problems. We do not believe that this will be the case, and indeed matters could be made worse because of the blockage of the right turn from Drayton Road into Ock Street. We suggest that the re-siting should be tested by putting temporary crossings in the new locations and closing, but not removing, the current crossings, and monitoring the traffic flow over a period of at least two weeks during term time. If this does result in easing of the traffic problems, all well and good. If not, public money will be saved by not going ahead with this proposal.