

## Local plan comments North Abingdon Proposal

There is a great deal in this plan which has not been investigated thoroughly enough. Unfortunately there is so much material to work through, I expect very few local residents will have the time or energy to conduct a full study of what is proposed and comment in detail.

I am therefore forced to restrict my comments to just three important issues that have not been adequately addressed. I am sure that there are many more.

1. **Schools.** Two years ago I had to make an appeal to Oxfordshire County Council on behalf of my Grandson, who was not offered a primary school place at his catchment area school in north Abingdon and instead was offered a place on the other side of town. We won the appeal and Oxfordshire County Council had to admit to 3 counts of maladministration. Not only was my Grandson then offered a much more suitable school place, but 6 other children were then also admitted to the school in question forcing the school to over admit 6 children above the legal limit. I quote this example to explain just how serious the situation is in Abingdon primary schools. We therefore already need at least one more primary school in the North of Abingdon. Your local plan obviously does not address this issue. If the proposed 1000 houses were to go ahead, we would need at least 2 more primary schools in the north side of town. Clearly we will then also need another secondary school and, your comment on “contribution” to secondary school education by any building contractor is woefully inadequate. Personally, I would like to see a grammar school built to help address the unsatisfactory education standards in the local comprehensives. I speak as a former governor of 2 Abingdon schools.
2. **Health Centre.** Long Furlong medical centre was built to service 2000 patients yet now has a patient list of 9000! I have been told that there is no possibility of the health centre expanding its patient list further. Yet there is no mention in the local plan of the construction of new medical centres and, worse, how they are to be staffed given the national decline in GP numbers. The same applies to the school situation. You can build schools, but where are the quality teachers going to come from?
3. **Air/Noise pollution.** The problems of traffic congestion on the A34 are well known. There are far too many serious accidents on the road, usually involving heavy goods lorries. The local plan for north Abingdon does not adequately address the issue of noise and air pollution. Living on the Long Furlong Estate we are very aware of the significant increase in road noise from the A34 since we moved here in 1991. The noise levels on the proposed new building zones will be far worse and probably at unacceptable levels. The plan also talks about remedial action for air pollution caused by the A34. As a highly qualified chemist, I cannot see any way that you can remove the nitrogen and sulphur oxides that the road generates. The resulting risk to health is obvious and makes the proposed North Abingdon site totally unsuitable.

