

Comment

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Comment by	Mrs Sarah Church
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Please states in the box below the Planning Policy or Site reference you are commenting on.	Development Policy 7: Community Services and Facilities

Please make your comments on this Planning Policy or Site in the box below:

The Policy, and indeed the entire Plan, makes no explicit mention of educational facilities to support residential housing growth. This may or may not appropriately be placed under Development Policy 7, but it appeared the nearest in policy type. The growth of the larger villages and of the market towns, Faringdon in particular, is placing considerable stress on local education provision. The village primary schools have expanded where they are able, and some children attend schools in a different village to the one they live in. This is possible for children whose parents drive, since the public transport links between villages have been terminated by Oxfordshire County Council. Education is a County Council responsibility but it is one that must be developed in complete coherence with the District Development Plan. The villages around Faringdon, each with their own primary school: Shrivenham, Watchfield, Longcot and Fernham, Ashbury, Buckland, and others, send their children in the main to Faringdon Community College, which itself will expand to 9-form entry in 2017. This expansion is welcome, but can only go so far to meet the need. There is a growing need to consider another secondary school in the Western Vale to take in the growing number of children in the new houses. This cannot be simply stated as a requirement for developers, but must be actively pursued by the Vale District Council and Oxfordshire County Council together.