

Chilton Parish Council



Chilton Parish Council Statement for Part 1 Examination

Matter 3 – Spatial Strategy and Housing Supply Ring Fence

3.1 Is the proposed distribution of new housing and employment land (policies CP4 and CP6) soundly based? In particular: (a) Does the proposed distribution of housing set out in policy CP4 appropriately reflect the settlement hierarchy (policy CP3) and the core planning principle of the NPPF (para 17) to actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable?

Policy CP3 relates to settlement hierarchy but the Plan is intentionally misleading in this respect. The Harwell-Oxford Campus is called a Larger Village when it is in reality an employment site with just a few houses (a legacy from its days as an RAF airfield) within its boundaries. This designation is then used in part to justify turning it into a new settlement.

Does the distribution appropriately reflect the role of Oxford in providing for employment and services for the residents of Vale of White Horse?

Too much housing is being allocated a significant distance away from Oxford where housing need can be demonstrated (see 2.1), thus unnecessarily exacerbating already existing commuting pressures. Policy CP5 is also placing unsustainable load on the A34.

3.3 Is it feasible that a significantly different distribution of housing development from the proposed could be delivered?

Yes. The Didcot Power Station brownfield site could include a larger residential component than presently envisaged. Its location transport infrastructure-wise is a big advantage. Also the Harwell Campus Partnership has proposed significant residential housing within the existing Campus boundary that would be staged in line with its actual rather than forecast employment growth. The Campus is identified as one of the Vale's two most important employment sites.

3.4 Is the "housing supply ring fence" approach of policy CP5 to the delivery of housing in the Science Vale area (a) adequately explained in terms of its practical operation, (b) justified, (c) likely to be effective and (d) in accordance with national policy?

The allocation of 1400 houses in the NWD AONB is the largest national allocation in an AONB or National Park and the Plan fails to demonstrate exceptional circumstances that could justify it.

Liz Morris – Clerk to the Parish Council