

From: John Bleasdale <[REDACTED]>
To: <planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk>
Date: 17/12/2014 11:59
Subject: Response to Consultation on Local Plan Part One 2031

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to object to the draft Local Plan Part One 2031 as I feel that it is 'unsound'.

1. More houses proposed than the Government predict are needed.

The plan is based high forecasts of housing need, taken from the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA), which has been much criticised. This assessment suggests 250% of what the Government's official household projections would suggest. This figure is too high and the SHMA has not been subject to independent review.

2. Building on Green Belt.

The proposals have incorrectly identified four development sites within the Green Belt and North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These would undermine and damage the rural character of the Vale. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes it very clear that a Green Belt boundary may be altered only in 'exceptional circumstances' and that housing needs do not constitute these circumstances.

3. Supporting Infrastructure

There is insufficient infrastructure available to come close to meeting the plan as outlined. It will not be possible to resolve this in the target time scales and without having a significant negative impact on the rural landscape.

For the above reasons, I consider the Plan to be unsound and not justified by robust evidence. I request that much lower housing figures (based more closely on the Government's

own household projections) should be used by the Vale in its Local Plan, and that the Inspector strikes from the Local Plan all site allocations in the Green Belt and North Wessex Downs.

Regards,

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