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To: <planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk>
Date: 19/12/2014 14:48
Subject: Comments on Local Plan

Comments on Local Plan

Just in case I was not able to navigate my way through your (extremely complex) standard response method, I set down here as a narrative my objections to the Local Plan as it affects Chilton. But please take the standard form as priority. If it worked. If not, please use this response.

Objection to proposed New Local Plan 2031 (East Harwell Campus)

Firstly I would like to question the very short consultation time on this development and ask if the regulation time period has been allowed. I did not receive the glossy brochure of the plan until AFTER the exhibitions were over! Also why was there no exhibition in the very village most affected by this proposal? Chilton! Please respond to these queries.

I would like to object strongly to the proposed housing development on the edge of Chilton village. It is referred to as Harwell East campus but is in reality Chilton North and should be referred to as such.

Chilton is by its nature a very quiet village. This is mainly due to the restricted access off the A34 and that one cannot pass through the village on the way to anywhere else. It is well within an AONB and features one pub and one 12th century grade II listed church. Until a few years ago it had a shop and post office. In the last decade 2 roads of houses have been added to the village. More recently some 275 houses have been built to the west of the A34. This was despite initial planning being sought for only 100. These were allowed to go through and currently a large effort is being made to integrate these new home owners into the rest of the village. Mainly through the village church.

This current proposal for 1400 houses comes on top of the planning to build a complex A34 access road and a proposal to build one of the biggest solar farms in the country. The solar farm I don't have a problem with but the access slip roads will virtually imprison motorists trying to get out of the village. The 1400 houses would be built on high grade agricultural land that usually has wheat growing on it. There is no mention of the needed infrastructure, and Chilton would at least triple in size in just a few years. We now hear that a further 2000 houses are planned in later years. Presumably to the North of this development and reaching to neighbouring Harwell. Thus we would then be almost joined up to Harwell and given that Harwell is now all but joined up to Didcot, we would effectively lose our two villages and become part of a "Greater Didcot". It is no right to just obliterate villages in this Stalinesque way! Both villages have a character of their own. Highly appreciated by the villagers, who are prepared to put up without the usual urban facilities to live a quiet country life and a safe one for our children.

Please rethink this proposal. We as a village have accepted the recent 275 new homes but to ask to accommodate a further nearly five times that number is ridiculous and asking for far too much. Not to mention the further 2000 homes planned. Despite the proposed Oxford Enterprise Zone, it is by no means certain that these proposed houses would be taken by workers in the zone. There are several other areas in the county that could take this housing and that is on low grade land. Such as Stanford in the Vale, Wantage and Grove. They are not AONB. Surely an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty should be just that and not be covered in houses that would take away that natural beauty and all that makes this county so desirable to live in. Currently!

Please acknowledge safe receipt of this objection and confirm that it will be taken into consideration in this (very short) consultation process.

Best Regards

Steven Hale. 33 Crafts End. Chilton.