



**Vale of White Horse Local Plan Part One:  
Strategic Sites and Policies**  
Publication Stage Representation Form

Ref:

(For official  
use only)

Name of the Local Plan to which this representation relates:

Vale of White Horse Local Plan

Response form for the Vale of White Horse strategic planning policy document, the Local Plan Part one. Please return to Planning Policy, Vale of White Horse District Council, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh, Wallingford, OX10 8ED or email [planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) no later than Friday 19 December 2014 by 4.30 pm precisely.

This form has two parts –

Part A – Personal Details

Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each representation you wish to make.

## Part A

### 1. Personal Details\*

*\*If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in 2.*

### 2. Agent's Details (if applicable)

Title

Dr.

First Name

Elizabeth

Last Name

Matthews

Job Title

(where relevant)

Organisation

(where relevant)

Address Line 1

58 Appleton Road

Line 2

Cumnor

Line 3

Oxford

Line 4

Post Code

OX2 9QH

Telephone Number

E-mail Address

(where relevant)

## Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation :

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph

Policy

13

Proposals Map

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is :

4.(1) Legally compliant

Yes

No

4.(2) Sound (Positively Prepared, Effective and Justified)

Yes

No

4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate

Yes

No

*Please mark as appropriate.*

5. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

The Vale has published its own comments on the Green Belt Review which it commissioned from external companies, and said that it disagreed with removing the land packets 4 and 5 from the Green Belt because development here would damage Cumnor's Conservation Area and so would not be allowed. The Vale concluded that these changes would therefore serve no purpose. In my opinion the same argument applies to the other two areas (6 and 24). Although Cumnor is not identified as one of the Vale's strategic housing areas in the Local Plan, villagers also know that the protection offered by the Conservation Area has not deterred developers from approaching owners of land within these packets following publication of the Green Belt Review. We can only conclude from this that Green Belt protection is strictly necessary. In my opinion, the existing Green Belt boundaries around Cumnor have achieved exactly what was intended when they were established.

There seem to be "no exceptional circumstances" cited which would justify the Cumnor boundary changes in the context of NPPF rules. Local opinion on this matter as expressed in the consultation has been ignored by the Vale, with its final decision being made obscure even to our Parish Council.

The purpose of the Green Belt is to prevent urban sprawl. To date, the Green Belt between Oxford and Cumnor has enabled the village to retain its distinctive identity and preserve its rural character despite its proximity to the city. Removing the four areas mentioned above, together with land packet 3 beside the A420, risks turning Cumnor into an extension of the Oxford conurbation through the building development that would almost inevitably follow. The locality needs its open spaces, not merely for humans but also for the animal and plant life which is entitled to thrive in them.

6. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the test you have identified at 5 above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at

examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

In core policy 13 it should be clearly stated that the existing Green Belt Boundaries around Cumnor village will be maintained. This will make the plan consistent with the development in "built areas only" which is already stated for Cumnor in the Local Plan.

**Please note** your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.

**After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.**

7. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination?

☒

No, I do not wish to participate at the oral examination

☐

Yes, I wish to participate at the oral examination

8. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

**Please note** the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.

Signature:

Date:

17<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014