

Comment

Consultee	T Lever (874119)
Address	62 Alexander Close Abingdon OX14 1XB
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	T Lever
Comment ID	LPPub3408
Response Date	22/01/15 11:31
Consultation Point	Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Email
Version	0.3
Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant?	No
Q2 Do you consider the Local Plan is Sound (positively prepared, effective and Justified)	No
If your comment(s) relate to a specific site within a core policy please select this from the drop down list.	N/A

Q4 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.

Please find attached a submission including a Topic Paper on the Green Belt issues written on behalf of the North Abingdon Local Plan Group. This group was recently formed following a Public Meeting on the draft Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 held on Monday 3rd November 2014 at Long Furlong Community Centre, which was addressed by Councillor Sandy Lovatt. The group comprises nine individuals who are opposed to the identification of land by the Council in the Oxford Green Belt to the North of Abingdon-on-Thames for approximately 1000 houses. Our first meeting was held on Monday 17th November and we were particularly concerned that the residents of Peachcroft estate were unaware of the proposed development, as the site to the north between the Oxford Road (A4183) and Peach Croft Farm had only recently been included in October 2014. Our fears were confirmed and a representative of Peachcroft later joined the group. We have written several papers concerning the

proposal including papers on The SHMA, Green Belt, Traffic and Air Quality and have posted draft copies of these on the Long Furlong Community Association website. This is to help residents learn more about the issues and make informed choices and decide whether they want to make representations concerning the Local Plan. The Council have produced so many documents that it is overwhelming. In addition we have posted advice as to how to fill in the submission form as it is very complicated and may put people off making representations. Following on from this we printed 3000 leaflets and delivered these to residents on Peachcroft, Long Furlong and some roads off Copenhagen Drive alerting residents to the proposal. Many, as we suspected, were unaware of the proposal. This leaflet contained details of two 'drop in' sessions we organised on Wednesday 10th December 2pm-6pm and Saturday 13th December 10am-1pm to give general advice on the proposal and the submission forms. These were well attended and residents found them helpful. We also wrote letters to the Oxford Mail and the Abingdon Herald voicing our concerns and these were printed on 8th and 10th December respectively. Additionally the CPRE held a meeting on 2nd December on Green Belt sites identified in the Vale Draft Local Plan and a member of our group was asked to speak about our concerns about the proposal in North Abingdon. We have produced these reports ourselves and not employed private consultants and have put them in the public domain to inform residents of the proposal and to widen understanding of the issues involved. We feel strongly about the issues and have had to produce them in a very short timescale but hope that they contribute to the debate. We are keen to be invited to put our views in person to the Planning Inspector at the Planning Inquiry stage.