

## Comment

<b>Consultee</b>	Mr Richard Strange (828766)
<b>Email Address</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Address</b>	3 The Medway East Hanney OX12 0HY
<b>Event Name</b>	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
<b>Comment by</b>	Mr Richard Strange
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<b>Consultation Point</b>	Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon-on-Thames and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area ( <a href="#">View</a> )
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**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.** South of East Hanney

If you think your comment relates to the DtC, this is about how we have worked with the Duty to Cooperate bodies (such as neighbouring planning authorities)

**Q3 Do you consider the Local Plan complies with the Duty to Co-operate?** No

**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.**

- In summary, the plan is illegal as it was massively changed after initial consultation, was built on incorrectly summarized feedback from initial consultation, was deliberately hidden from the community

and is built on an incorrect classification of East Hanney as a large village with facilities with good transport links.

Below is my evidence of this summary:

- Original plan was about East of East Hanney development. Council have changed this fundamentally (by moving it to the south with substantially more houses), without telling anyone and only changed it right at the end of the entire consultation process. The change was only discovered deep in this new document on the council website by a villager. It was purposely hidden by the council until a late stage in the process.
- The development is now supposedly multi-stage; this was not even mentioned in the original plan/consultation.
- The council did not ask the community or consult on the fact that they were looking at every site in East Hanney - even throughout this tiny village.
- The council have misrepresented at the strategic level the views of the initial consultation - saying that there was some minor concerns - rather than the complete opposition as shown on our village website: <http://www.hanneyhousingplan.co.uk/> Which shows 255 of 260 respondents opposing. That's nearly every house in the village completing the survey. They have also belittled some of the particular comments in their aggregation of these comments.
- The village has been misclassified as a 'large village' - as it supposedly has 'facilities'. Apparently we were classified as a large village due to our library facilities - in reality this is a mobile library van that comes for half an hour once a fortnight and is a service which is due to cease very shortly.
- it also apparently has good transport links according to the plan - when in reality it has no bus links to the Science facilities that the report states as a reason for needing to build - i.e. build near Science facilities. So all new residents would be forced to drive to work. According to the plan they can also apparently walk or cycle to Grove and Wantage - we can testify this is just not possible as there's no accessible footpath/cycleway and the only alternative route would be along the A338 which again has no pathways and is a winding country road.
- it also apparently has links to good schools - however the school is already over subscribed by 50% and children are already being bussed out to other schools miles and miles away - and the report makes no plan to remedy this; not promising to expand our school as the school is run by another council (Oxfordshire County).
- the plan also states we have shopping facilities - when in fact we have a tiny village shop the size of a bedroom, run by volunteers which only operates very very limited hours.
- the plan also belittles the flood risk (the village is impassable during periods of heavy rain most years and many homes have been flooded regularly) and fundamentally misleads the reader and is not written by someone with enough local environmental knowledge - they surely cannot see the scale of flooding year after year in our village and yet are suggesting building on the first flood plain upstream. If they build upstream on this flood plain our village will flood even more as that water which have previously drained on the surface will now feed into Letcombe Brook and flow down to East Hanney.
- above I alluded to the fact that the A338 is a country road, a fact which the plan seems to have overlooked. During peak periods traffic is already very heavy on this road surrounding East Hanney (with 2 mile long stationary tailbacks daily at Frilford crossroad traffic lights) and this will get much worse when the housing developments in Wantage and Grove are completed. At some points this road narrows to get between old buildings such as a mill - this is not a safe, straight main road - putting more houses along this road will add to this problem.
- Threat to local wildlife - the plan indicates the location of some protected species near the area on which it wants to build that live in rare, protected grassland. It is areas such as these that make our village special and contribute towards its cultural identity, notwithstanding the loss of enjoyment that many people would suffer.

**Q5 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 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.**

At this stage the community have lost all faith in the process and the council, who have misrepresented our views in the initial stage and now fundamentally changed the proposal at the very last stage - simply invalidating the entire consultation process.

We appreciate the need for further housing not just nationally but also in the Vale of White Horse.

However we would ask that we be rightly reclassified as a small village, allowing for the plan to be based on an understanding of the hugely detrimental impacts (as listed above) . It would also be far better to create smaller housing developments, such as the small cul-de-sacs of 10-15 houses built within East Hanney in the last 50 years.

Recent community meetings have shown that we are all realistic about the need for future changes, but passionate about maintaining our identity and way of life as a small village with small community-run infrastructure; which means any growth must be slow and organic.

The plan also needs to reflect that we have already had around 50 new houses built in East Hanney in the last ten years (without any improvements made to infrastructure to help deal with these) so we have already contributed to the need for more housing.

**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.**

**Q6 If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination?** Yes - I wish to participate at the oral examination

**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.

**Q7 If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:**

We have been so fundamentally misled and represented as a community by this plan that I am compelled to volunteer to be part of this examination to reclassify us as a small village and the plan restarted as such.