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CC: [REDACTED]
Date: 17/12/2014 11:35
Subject: Local PLan Part One 2031

Dear Sir, Councillor Barber and Mr Murray:

As a resident of one of the small villages in the Western Vale, I write to register my strong opposition to the Local Plan Part 2031 in its present form on the following grounds:

1. Re Core Policy 4. The Local Plan is entirely based on a wholesale and uncritical acceptance of the housing figures projected in the SHMA. As a businessman with many years of experience of forecasting demand, it is clear to me from the methodology adopted in the SHMA that the resulting figures almost certainly overstate the likely demand for housing in the Vale by a very wide margin. It would be irresponsible and to adopt a Local Plan with such irreversible and far-reaching consequences, and for which there is absolutely no electoral mandate, based on a deeply flawed model which there has been no proper opportunity to challenge or debate.
2. Re Core Policy 7. It is common ground that existing services and infrastructure are already stretched to breaking point. It is inconceivable that the necessary improvements, if possible at all, could be made in time to avoid a significant deterioration in the quality of life for residents of whole swathes of the Vale.
3. Re Core Policy 15. On these grounds alone, and there are many other arguments against the Local Plan in its current form, I would ask the Inspector to strike from the Plan all allocations of sites suitable for housing in the areas of Green Belt and the AONB affected.

Finally, I wish to register my view that Uffington is mischaracterised as a larger village suitable for wholesale development. The unique setting of the village, the very rural nature of all of the roads in and out of Uffington and its closeness to the AONB and White Horse Hill suggest that (per NPPF Para.157) it should be re-classified as a smaller village and protected from development on a scale which will forever change its character.

Yours faithfully,

Piers von Simson

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