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Date: 19/12/2014 14:01
Subject: The new Local Plan 2031: Consultation Feedback

On behalf of West Hanney Parish Council

Our response is no different to our reply in April - we realise the importance that a plan is adopted; however, our main concern is to protect the character and beauty of the Vale. Relative to small villages, limited development needs to be defined more accurately to ensure our rural villages are not destroyed in the future by excessive over-development. Generally, to impose this level of new housing across the Vale needs to be managed sympathetically. Without upgrading the infrastructure a huge strain will be imposed on the roads, schools and medical facilities. The A34 is a specific pinch point: even today there are frequent blockages on this major trunk road leading to traffic jams around Wantage on the A417 and the A338 past the Hanneys. The local schools are already full, funds are essential to extend existing and build new schools, and booking an appointment with a Doctor can, on occasions, be almost impossible. Local authorities & government cannot keep choosing to ignore these facts and they must ensure that improved infrastructure is the highest priority for the developers, even if the developers are forced to pay a considerable sum for these improvements.

Specifically on the proposed 200-house development at East Hanney, all the above needs to be considered with great care - as it will significantly increase the current housing level; will add more vehicles on the road that is frequently jammed at peak times; will increase the need for more spaces at the school which is already at capacity; will stretch the capacity of the local sewage works, and that is without the already agreed massive increase in houses for Wantage and Grove and will not enhance the overall quality of life in the Hanneys.

I realise this is not in the preferred format however I do hope these points are considered and the Plan does not change the character of the Vale for ever.

Edward Wilkinson
West Hanney Parish Council