
From:
Sent: 21 November 2017 23:32
To: Planning Policy Vale
Cc:
Subject: Objections to Vale Local Plan Part 2

Dear Sirs

We are writing to voice our objections to the LPP2, and we feel that it is totally unsound.

Firstly, with reference to core policy 13a we are totally appalled that the Vale has safeguarded land that cuts straight through the greenbelt land between Whitecross and Sunningwell, in order to create bus and cycleways to a proposed Park and Ride at Lodge Hill. This land is not only beautiful, and picturesque, it is full of wildlife, which, as nature lovers, is extremely important to our family. It is the reason we moved to Whitecross 14 years ago. We are lucky enough to see deer, yellow hammers, skylarks, buzzards, red kites and, this year for the first time we saw a pair of peregrine falcons hunting in the field directly behind our house. This tranquillity would be totally destroyed by the building of a road straight through the middle. We have a young family who attend Sunningwell Primary School, and we absolutely love going for walks through the fields, using the existing bridle path, which leads to Dark Lane, and Sunningwell School. To have this environment concreted over and polluted by buses would go against everything that we as parents are teaching our children about protecting the environment and nature, for future generations.

Secondly, we would like to question whether there is actually a requirement for a large-scale development in the area you are proposing at Dalton Barracks, as referred to in your core policy 8a/b. We simply cannot comprehend that there is a housing shortage amongst local people.

Dalton Barracks airfield is an important local amenity which is frequently used for not only local but also for national events. It is critically important for Abingdon and its surrounding area to have an open space available for such events. Any development at Dalton Barracks should only encompass brown field sites and not part of the airfield itself. We understand that there will inevitably need to be some development. However, any development should be moderate and in keeping with the local village. Sunningwell is a rural village with its unique identity. Your plan to build such a large development will have an adverse effect on the environment and in particular on traffic in this area.

Thirdly, the plans to build a Park and Ride carpark at the Lodge Hill A34 junction would increase traffic in this area immeasurably. As part of this plan, as mentioned above, you have indicated that you intend to build a bus route across prime agricultural land within the Green Belt. It would appear far more logical for you to build the proposed Park and Ride at the A34 Marcham Interchange where it is closer to the new Dalton Barracks and Marcham developments. The proposed bus lane to Oxford could run along the A34 from the Milton Interchange. This would consequently dispense with the need to build bus routes across open fields.

We therefore strongly object to the safeguarding of land in Whitecross and the Sunningwell Parish for bus and cycle routes and the Park and Ride because it is unsound. They should be removed from the plan and any future plans should not be brought forward without comprehensive engagement with the local community and landowners.

Yours faithfully

Mr Stuart and Mrs Charlotte Bates