

Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan Part 2

My comments are as follows

Core Policy 8 a/b

I object to the further incursion into the green belt, beyond the western boundary shown in Plan Part 1. Although technically the additional land proposed to be taken out of the green belt is previously developed land, it is in fact open land, much of it grassland providing a haven for wildlife. Its removal from the green belt would reduce the openness of the green belt and would have a negative effect on biodiversity. Wildlife, such as skylarks which flourish there at present, are unlikely to be able to survive in a smaller area. A sufficient area must also be maintained to provide nectar for the important and vulnerable insect populations of the Cothill Nature Reserves. No more land should be taken out of the green belt than is absolutely necessary. I therefore request that the boundary reverts to the position shown in Plan Part 1.

Core policy 12a and 13a

I object to the safeguarding in the Plan of land in Sunningwell Parish for a Park and Ride and bus and cycleways, because it is unsound, as explained in SPADE and Sunningwell Parish Council's responses.

If a remote Park and Ride were to be built for Abingdon and surrounding area, it should be built where it would best serve its purpose, which in my view would be at the junction of the A34 and A415, where it would catch traffic from Marcham and further west. It would be a logical site in relation to the proposed Dalton Barracks development and it would be less intrusive in the landscape than Lodge Hill.

If the Park and Ride were to be built at Lodge Hill, improvements to cycling and bus transport should and, I believe, could, be carried out without damaging the green belt. If the safeguarded land were to be developed for cycle and bus routes it would be an unjustified incursion into the green belt, reducing its openness and despoiling the landscape. Other routes should be examined, for example a segregated cycle route along the Wootton Road would not have these damaging consequences and would provide a much needed safe cycle route to Abingdon.

I would also request that a segregated cycle route should be provided along the Wootton Road from Dalton Barracks to Cumnor, if a Park and Ride were built at Cumnor, to provide a choice and also to enable cyclists from Wootton and Dry Sandford to access that Park and Ride. Wootton Road is not currently safe for cyclists.

So far as is consistent with the above, I endorse the consultation responses of SPADE and Sunningwell PC.

Judith Haworth