

Comment

Consultee	Mrs Christine Wootton (828086)
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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mrs Christine Wootton
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 13: The Oxford Green Belt (View)
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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. North of Abingdon-on-Thames

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 the past year or so Abingdon Town Council and the Vale District Council refused planning permission for Radley College's application to build houses on the triangular field bordering the Peachcroft estate, Radley Road and Twelve Acre Drive, to the north east of Abingdon. This was on the grounds that it was Green Belt land. It is valuable agricultural land and was left as a space to prevent coalescence

between the village of Radley and Abingdon. It has a covenant and a legal agreement on it to prevent development. There was an enormous amount of support from the local community to keep this field free from development yet the Vale Council in their local plan have taken no notice of this in saying that the field should lose its green belt status. Surely this field serves the definition of green belt land in keeping a breathing space between two communities. On a map it looks a bit of an anomaly but in actual fact it gives a valuable open space between two communities, which is already rather narrow in comparison to other villages. The covenant of 1930 and the legal agreement of 1972 confirms this.

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.

The Vale of White Horse Council recognised the importance of the green belt in regards to the aforementioned field when they refused planning permission for development and I think they should continue to recognise this fact. It is the following statement in the consultation document that I object to.

"It is based on the very latest evidence and engagement with the views of people in our communities".

I do not feel that they have taken into account the views of the large majority of people in the community when deciding on the future of the aforementioned field, especially as they had taken them into account when refusing planning permission for the field.

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? No - I do not wish to participate at the oral examination