

From: JOHN SAUNDERS [REDACTED]
To: <planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk>
CC: [REDACTED] >
Date: 16/12/2014 23:21
Subject: Comments on Local Plan

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Please forward the following views to the planning inspector with regard to the proposed Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031.

These are the opinions of myself, Mr. J R Saunders of Willow

Lane Milton and my son Mr. M

J Saunders of North Drive Harwell and attended a public consultation on 27 November 2014 at Milton Hill House Hotel.

We have lived in the Abingdon / Milton / Harwell areas all of our lives (approx combined 85 years) and usually don't respond or write about planning, however we feel strongly about this proposal so wish to make our views known both to the Planning Inspector and our Local MP.

We totally understand the fact that more housing is required and agree there needs to be planning for this; however we feel the Vale of White Horse District Council proposal is flawed for the following reasons: They believe that certain areas like Harwell Campus is some kind of science 'hub' due to expand and is listed as 'planned economic growth area' which again is probably true to some extent although calling it a 'Science Vale' is somewhat a misleading statement. There are some leading science companies mostly built up of small companies on Harwell Campus dealing with science, however their projections seem like a total random pluck from the air which is even more ridiculous when they say about the amount of houses that are proposed to be built around Harwell Campus (850 houses East of Harwell Campus and 550 houses North of Harwell Campus) and the Chiltern area.

They claim it is best to build in a vast scale on an area of outstanding natural beauty in and around Harwell Campus and Chiltern because they believe that a lot of jobs will be around this area. Again yes, there may be an increase but really to the extent they propose?...We really can't see it. Most companies on the Harwell Campus are lab based companies where the amount of employees is low per square metre. You also have to look at the new development in Chiltern. I wonder how many people actually work nearby, like at Harwell Campus. Again very few...At the consultation on 27 November 2014 at Milton Hill House Hotel

A lady made this same valid point that she lives on the new 2014 development in Chiltern and also the fact that of all of her neighbors and many other residents don't live AND work in the same area. E.g. none of these people living on this development actually work on Harwell Campus.

So the whole idea of building the majority of houses where the Vale of White Horse District Council 'thinks' there are going to be a vast amount of jobs is completely flawed as the likelihood is that very few of us have a 2 minute commute to our place of work. Originally the Vale of White Horse District Council proposed around 1400 houses at Milton heights which was then changed to 400. The reasoning for this reduction was that apparently (this was the Vale of White Horse District Council response as to why the amount of housing in Milton Heights had been revised) the road structure wouldn't be able to cope with this volume of traffic because of the Milton interchange and other nearby routes. Again totally flawed because all the other additional housing in and around Milton heights, like the vast amount of houses proposed in and around Harwell Campus and Chiltern of course would of course still use the Milton interchange and surrounding routes. It is obvious that all of the people moving into these proposed new housing will be working all around Oxfordshire and not just on Harwell Campus so the justification for the change

is not relevant.

Whether you have 1400 or 400 houses at Milton

Heights plus all of the vast amount

planned at Harwell Campus and in the Chiltern area the result on the local road infrastructure will be just the same – gridlock. Gridlock will be even more of a problem than at present, it all grinds to a halt when just one incident happens virtually unbearable now let alone when all these houses are built.

The road infrastructure is at bursting point here and now in

2014. Mr. M J Saunders lives near Harwell Campus and works in Sutton Courtenay, around 20 minutes away or though it should be. It only takes one problem on the surrounding areas road network such as at the Milton interchange, the A34 or any other surrounding 'A' roads such as A4185 Newbury road and it causes havoc for the whole area. In some cases he has left his house at 8:20am and has not got to work until 10:30am and in some cases even

later. Mr. J R Saunders experiences the same problems just traveling from Milton to Abingdon. How are we expected to cope when the vast amounts of houses are built around the Harwell Campus and Chiltern area? This is unthinkable.

We thought the whole idea of planning was that it was to be done sympathetically and wasn't to impact on the area yet from what the Vale of White Horse District Council are proposing we simply don't understand how this is going to be avoided especially with the vast areas of developments like the proposed ones at Harwell Campus and Chiltern in an area of outstanding natural beauty.

We have also heard a rumor that the massive new Great Western Park development to the west of Didcot near the Milton interchange the sewage system hasn't been taken over by Thames Water as apparently that they couldn't agree that their infrastructure could cope with that amount of new housing and tankers have to visit every week to take away waste, hardly good planning.

With this new housing in mind local people are unable to buy these properties; mainly they are being bought by people moving into the area from outside or commuters to London.

E.g. Mr. M J Saunders has a professional qualification, worked hard and saved and still couldn't afford a new property, wasn't eligible for the help to buy government scheme and had to buy a 80 year house formally part of RAF Harwell WW2 so to suggest this housing is going to be affordable to locals is deluded.

Of course no one wants houses built around the area they live in but we also understand there is a need to build for the future but why can't these developments be a maximum of around 200 per development? If this was agreed there would be no need for such heavily focused developments like what has been proposed at Harwell Campus and Chiltern.

In this proposal there are also vast areas of the Vale around other villages that are largely unaffected. For example Stanford in the Vale, Kingston Bagpuize, Uffington, Longworth, Drayton, Steventon, East Challow, West and East Hanney aren't areas of outstanding natural beauty like Harwell and Chiltern. It just doesn't seem fair or right. If the areas such as those mentioned above bore more of the burden so that every village or town was extended where possible by adding around 200 houses by these small sporadic development methods then I think it would be more bearable for everyone rather than this postcode lottery.

Many Thanks

Mr J R & Mr M J Saunders

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