

From: John Perry [REDACTED]
To: "planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk" <planning.policy@whitehorsedc.gov.uk>
Date: 11/12/2014 09:19
Subject: Building in Green Belt, Wootton.

Dear Sir or Madam.

I am writing to object to the proposal to strip land in my village, Wootton, of Green Belt protection under the Planning Policy - Green Belt Review. I refer specifically to the area marked 9 on the map, though the case could equally be made for areas 10 and 23.

We are lucky to live in a beautiful, open and unspoiled area, the like of which the Green Belt is there to protect. Building on area 9 would destroy the countryside and have a dramatically detrimental effect on the quality of life for those in this area of the village.

Before we bought this house in 2004 I called your planning department seeing assurance that exactly this kind of development could not happen on this land or the farmland next to it. The planning officer looked it up and said it was the least likely class of land ever to be built on. On that basis I went ahead with the purchase and have never regretted it. My sense of betrayal will be acute should the area now be stripped of Green Belt protection and built on.

In practical terms, developing this land will be disastrous for the village itself, the infrastructure of which is ill-equipped for an even greater population. The road through Old Wootton is already inadequate. Increasing the population just off it will make it impassable, particularly during the school run hours.

I appreciate the need to build new homes after the population explosion of the last 14 years. But this part of Wootton has already very recently accommodated a substantial new estate directly opposite our house on the other side of Cumnor Road. Once you start building other new estates here, the village as it is will cease to exist. It will merely be a built-up suburb of Oxford/Abingdon. That ought not to be something of which councillors on the planning committee or their planning officers should be proud.

We have a rural feel in this part of the village which we all moved here to enjoy and continue to cherish. Come and walk around it and you'll see what we mean. We are not just some shaded patch on a map. This is our community and we love it as it is.

Yours faithfully

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