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Subject: Local Plan 2031

As residents of Cumnor, we wish to comment as follows.

Policy 4 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment indicates a rate of growth that is grossly undesirable. As residents and electors we have never been asked whether the concept of an Oxford City Region is what we want. There are those who do want this development, the so-called 'stake-holders', but the processes leading to the SHMA growth rate are profoundly anti-democratic. We are not satisfied that our elected representatives have been sufficiently energetic in opposing this. There appears to be, in local government, the same lack of connection between electors and those elected as in national politics.

Policy 7 Infrastructure is lacking. Those supporting this rate of development do not appear to appreciate that the road structure in and near Oxford City was laid down many years ago, much of it in the 18th and 19th centuries, and there is no acceptable and effective way of changing it. The Cumnor primary school is full. In a wider respect, the John Radcliffe Hospital appears to be close to its limit in patient numbers. Personally, this year I have found waiting areas in the Eye Hospital to be in a standing-room only condition.

With regard to Cumnor, we do not appreciate the attempts to urbanize the locality. Loss of Green Belt protection would facilitate this. The open-space village-character is what attracted us many years ago and we do not wish to see it lost for the sake of a growth rate that almost no-one, apart from 'stake-holders' wants. The increased traffic on village roads and the loss of proximity to, and the amenity of, green fields are not welcome.

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