

Comment

Consultee	Mr Robert Lucksford (874667)
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Address	3 Jennings Lane Harwell Didcot OX11 0EP
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr Robert Lucksford
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 15: Spatial Strategy for South East Vale Sub-Area (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Email
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Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant? Yes

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. N/A

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? Yes

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 case of Harwell Village, the Plan has no effective mechanisms to deliver the aim stated in Section 5.57 that: "The countryside and villages will have maintained their distinctive character. The Larger

Villages will have retained their separate identities.....". Nor does it have an effective mechanism to deliver point (ii) of CP 44 for Harwell Village, which sets out to 'protect from harmful development important landscape settings of settlements'. The issue is that there is nothing specific anywhere in the Plan which defines unambiguously and unsubjectively what constitutes 'maintenance of distinctive character/separate identity for Harwell village', particularly on its east side with encroachment by Valley Park.

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.

To make Section 5.57 and Gore Policy 44 of the Local Plan sound, the Plan must now identify a rural gap right around Harwell Village where no development will be permitted. This particularly applies to the approach to Harwell from the east, but is not confined to this direction. On the east side the template for Valley Park in Appendix A should include a commitment to a green corridor along the B4493 between the A34 and Zulu Farm, to preserve some vestige of a green gap between the village and Didcot.

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

Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.

Q7 If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

I am willing for my concerns to be represented by the Keep Harwell Rural Campaign.