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CC: [REDACTED]
Date: 19/12/2014 15:42
Subject: Green Belt, Wootton

To Whom It May Concern

I am extremely concerned regarding the proposals to take out certain areas of Green Belt designation in Wootton and Dry Sandford.

My main concern is for Area 23, which takes in the village playing field and fields between Wootton and Dry Sandford.

My concerns are as follows:

- * it will considerably impinge on the rural nature of the area and restrict open spaces. In addition, it will destroy the rural feel of the area.
- * The infrastructure of Wootton and Dry Sandford is overloaded already, and would not stand up to scrutiny if any building was carried out in the area. This includes roads, drainage, services, local schools and GP provision.
- * To take Green Belt designation away from the playing field will severely restrict this amenity to the population of both villages.
- * Both the playing field and the fields designated in Area 23 back onto Arthur Evans Close. This area is liable to flooding and is at a lower elevation to the playing field and the fields. Any building on these fields would result in circumstances that may not have been considered. For instance, any building that took place on these fields would prevent them from soaking up excess water in periods of heavy rain, which are becoming more frequent, and would result in more frequent flooding in Arthur Evans Close. The residents of the Close are disabled and elderly and, therefore extremely vulnerable. The majority of the bungalows are adapted to cater for the needs of the residents, and the vulnerability of the residents means that any increase in flooding would become untenable. The bungalows are owned by Sovereign Housing, who are aware of the flooding problems, as too are the Vale of White Horse District Council, Wootton and St Helens Without Parish Councils, Oxfordshire County Council and Thames Water. These unforeseen circumstances must be extremely carefully considered to prevent extreme hardship for existing members of the community.

Area 10 is also of concern:

- * This area is adjacent to Lamborough Hill, which is already an extremely busy road and causes major problems for people accessing the road, which runs between Abingdon and Cumnor, passing through Wootton, from their houses or side roads. Also it will become impossible for pedestrians to cross the road to access bus stops. This is particularly pertinent for young families, the disabled and elderly residents, many of whom are residents in Wootton and in the Lamborough Hill area. The infrastructure and safety considerations for building in this area is simply not there.
- * As well as an already impossibly busy road, the other village services are just not of a standard that could cope with any building of the scale reportedly considered.
- * The magnificent views from Boars Hill looking across the Vale of White Horse to the distant downs beyond would be severely curtailed. Building on Area 10 would destroy the peacefulness of Wootton and its surrounding area, as well as destroying the rural nature of the area.

Before any Green Belt areas are considered to lose their protection, an audit of suitable Brown Field sites must take place. Green Belt should not be seen as the easy option. It is a hugely valuable resource, and once lost can never be regained. This HAS to be taken VERY seriously.

Yours faithfully,

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