

Mr Matthew Barber (Leader of the Council)  
Mr Michael Murray (Cabinet Member for Planning Policy)  
VOWHDC 7th December 2014

Dear Sirs

RE: VOWHDC Local Plan 2031

We write again to object in the strongest terms the VOWH plan to remove land from the green belt around Cumnor, Appleton and Farmoor.

All the objections lodged below from the original consultation still stand, with the exception of the 200 Houses agreed for Appleton Road, which has now been withdrawn.

We also believe local MP's Nicola Blackwood and Layla Moran have written to you to object to the proposals and to the scale of the likely housing developments that would ultimately arise.

We also refer you to the following statements from central government

1) Nick Boles MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Planning has openly stated that

"The Government's Planning Framework makes clear that a Green Belt boundary may be altered only in exceptional circumstances and reiterates the importance and permanence of the Green Belt".

2) Eric Pickles MP, Communities Secretary has openly stated that

"We've always been a green and pleasant land: and we must stay that way, preserving the best of our countryside and other green spaces. But we've also been facing a serious housing shortage in this country, and we've got to increase supply in line with demand. I'm determined that we rise to that challenge without building unnecessarily on undeveloped land. The way to do that is to use brownfield better,"  
The key points of Mr Pickles' pledges are that the Government's push to increase house building must be focused on land that has already been built on in and around towns, "preserving the best of our countryside". Mr Pickles has resisted previous Treasury attempts to allow building on the greenbelt and insists that development must be kept away from the countryside and focus on areas that have already been used. Building on brownfield land will allow the Government to reconcile the need for more houses with the protection of the countryside, keeping Britain a Green and Pleasant land.

3) The Conservative led Oxfordshire County Council has also opposed the plans stating the developments do not have the necessary infrastructure support to make them viable

We are therefore perplexed how the VOWHDC can go against the advice of both local and national government and for the conservative majority of the council, that of their own party, in the pursuit of what we perceive as 'flawed' plans. We trust you will consider again and withdraw your intention to remove land from the green belt and to re-instate green belt designation on any land you may have already deregulated.

We look forward to your reply with interest

Yours sincerely

Charles & Stephanie Cottrill  
74 Norreys Road  
Cumnor  
Oxford  
OX2 9PU