

I wish to object to the removal of five areas of open countryside from Oxford Green Belt in Cumnor Parish as follows:

Policy 4 of the Local Plan

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment is not sustainable. SHMA figures are much higher than the Government's projections, and are not based on realistic economic growth. Social and economic environment has not been taken into account. The Public consultation process has been inadequate, rushed and not carried out thoroughly. It has taken no account of the independent expert advice available. It contradicts the Vale's own statements regarding the protection of the countryside and development of Cumnor Parish. Therefore I do not consider the Local Plan to be Legally Compliant, Sound or Complying with the Duty to Co-operate.

Policy 7 of the Local Plan

No reason has been given for removing land from the Green Belt. This makes the intentions of the policy unclear. I believe the intention is to eventually allow developers to purchase this land easily for housing. There is insufficient infrastructure to support this plan. Medical facilities and Primary/Secondary schools are all at capacity in Cumnor Parish. The B4107 winds its way through the historic centre of Cumnor Village, past meeting halls, local shops, the Primary school and Church as well as listed buildings. It is already a dangerous road to cross during busy times due to hidden bends in the road and traffic volume through the Village. To increase this by adding further housing would cause traffic snarl-ups and accidents. The B4044 has already suffered from recent development on Cumnor Hill - and I have seen teenagers running dangerously across the road through spaces in the constant traffic flow to get to school, as well as push-bikes taking their lives into their hands trying to cross lanes at the top of Cumnor Hill to enter the Village during the afternoon. The A34 is inadequate for the amount of traffic it carries through Botley. Our roads cannot support further traffic increase.

Your website is far too difficult for ordinary people like myself to use. Policy documents are too complicated and wordy – Is this done deliberately to baffle people and cause them to 'not bother' responding to the plans? The timescale given for all parties to respond to the plan is inadequate, especially at a busy time of year. Therefore I do not consider the Local Plan to be Legally Compliant, Sound or Complying with the Duty to Co-operate.

Policy 13 of the Local Plan

The proposal to remove Green Belt sites from the village of Cumnor. We need to protect our countryside and flora/fauna for future generations. The Green Belt was set up for this reason and there should never any 'exceptional circumstances' for this to be changed. Taking Green Belt status away from land is against the Government aims to prevent urban sprawl. It will allow developers to apply for land purchase more easily and will completely change and destroy Cumnor – an historic village, and our heritage - which we should be preserving and protecting. The Local Plan seems to have been thrown together in a undemocratic way without collaboration or sufficient consultation with local people and Parish Councils. It has not given time to allow all parties to digest its implications. No reasons have been given for removal of land from the Green Belt. Therefore I do not consider the Local Plan to be Legally Compliant, Sound or Complying with the Duty to Co-operate.

Incidentally I have logged on to your site and tried to complete the official response form, but have found it so complicated a process that I had to abandon it after two hours of trying to understand which sections to complete.

Please acknowledge receipt of my objection.
Mr Keith Bushnell
6 The Park
Cumnor
Oxford
OX2 9QS 19th December, 2014 12.18pm