

As a local resident of Woolstone, I cannot marshal my arguments in the correct planning jargon, quoting all the various laws and procedures. However I have read as many of the e-mails that our diligent parish secretary has forwarded on. Thus I feel better informed than many Vale residents because :-

- I have received this information
- I have read it
- I am sufficiently well educated to grasp what it means

My objections are that the local plan is based on some very poor foundations, namely the large number of houses that we are supposed to absorb. I have been aware of local planning issues for the last thirty years, in both the Vale and previously in Wokingham District. In all that time these plans appear every few years driven by Government figures for vast numbers of new houses. I have yet to see all these houses built. So I do not believe these numbers either.

Another poor assumption, that does not appear to have been challenged by the experts employed by the council, is that there will be so many new jobs created in the Vale. What will the new workers be doing? Wealth is only created by harnessing the world's resources and then processing them into products that people wish to buy. What local resources are there in the rural parts of the Vale that will generate these jobs?

In successful businesses no investment is made without a clear plan based on realistic assumptions. You have a fancy plan but is it based on realistic assumptions? Have the assumptions been properly tested? Much of the objection by those who understand the local planning issues suggests that your plan is based on very unrealistic numbers.

When we recently applied for planning permission to build a new barn and house to extend our business, we had to supply a business plan to show that the new scheme was viable. All I ask is that you apply those same standards to your own plans.

Once you have evidence that the foundations of your plans have been rigorously challenged and tested and you show us that evidence then we will accept that this is the best for the Vale. As the local plan stands we do not have that confidence.

Regards  
Hugh Baxter