

Summary of Comments relating to Section 5 – Wantage and Grove
(other than housing, employment, shopping and transport)

Agree

Campaign to Protect Rural England, Ms Austin, J Hall-Craggs, Wilts and Berks Canal Trust, Environment Agency, Wantage anon:

Sensible objectives subject to comments made about insufficient emphasis on flood risk, concerns over housing numbers and towns supporting individual retail units.

With the exception of the preferred housing site and new road all proposals on figure 5.2 appear to be beneficial and the possibility of Grove station becoming a reality has been dreamed of for years by Wantage and Grove residents.

'Working together for a better Vale' is an excellent theme and we endorse the wish to improve the quality of life in the Vale.

Agree with policies to deliver the vision with respect to the delivery of the Wilts and Berks Canal.

Pleased to see reference to careful management of Letcombe Brook. This should be protected and enhanced.

Could form links with other green infrastructure and ecological features.

A few years ago a plan for development around the Old Canal was suggested. This would enhance our facilities and might encourage the completion of the canal renovation.

Disagree/Concerns

Oxfordshire County Council: Under leisure, recreation and community facilities (page 52) should identify need for a new youth centre.

Mr & Mrs Dexter, J Hall-Craggs, Revd J Robertson, Wantage anon, Grove anon:

There are not enough leisure, recreation and community facilities for proposed growth in inhabitants, particularly the young. Short sighted to not provide additional land for leisure and recreation, particularly with concerns over obesity and lack of exercise. VWH already employed a consultant to consider recreation land at the airfield development and had to tell sports clubs there is insufficient land for their requirements.

Also need more facilities for elderly people with easy access – one central centre is not enough.

Disappointed not to give more prominence to cycle tracks, for both access and recreation (take aspiration from the Dutch).

The church and surrounding area are ignored.

Need to promote community integration which should be written into the plan.

Cemetery provision in Wantage/Grove needs to be considered.

It is a pity the character of Wantage has already been lost to a concrete jungle.

When all these new houses are built will the existing sewage works be enlarged or will there be a new treatment works? Sewerage is hidden and often overlooked.

Please retain allotments on Grove Road.

Infrastructure first.

Feels like we don't have a say in the future of Wantage/Grove, all this is already a done deal.

Parking places needed behind Waitrose – usually full as villagers use the library. Commercial leisure could be elsewhere.

Better leisure and play facilities in Grove, not just Wantage.

Improve public transport and cycle routes.

Keep Market Place as heart of Wantage.

Flooding has to be taken into account throughout Grove, especially if land is taken up by the reservoir. Need assurance that proper evaluation has been done before finalising schemes.

Increased concrete exacerbates risk of flooding.

What happens to existing roads as a result of heavy traffic?

Environment Agency, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust: The area policies make no reference to protection and enhancement of biodiversity. It is necessary to highlight this as developments other than those at major sites need to deliver biodiversity protection and enhancement. The area policies provide an opportunity to provide locally relevant guidance specific to each area.