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27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Planning Policy

Vale of White Horse District Council

Dear Sirs

**The village of Shippon and the Green Belt.**

I am writing this letter to you regarding the future position of the village of Shippon with respect to the ongoing plans for residential developments on sites currently used by the British Army, and now scheduled to be released.

Let me preface my remarks by stating that I have no objection in principal to these plans to utilise redundant military facilities to help resolve the ongoing need for residential accommodation in Oxfordshire.

Shippon is indeed a small village, I am currently in the process of researching its history with a view to compiling a booklet about the village. Shippon (then called "Sipene") was mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. The word Shippon itself is defined as a "cowshed" and emphasises the rural nature of the village. As far as I can see, in the early stages of my research, it has been continuously inhabited since probably well before Domesday. It has survived the Black Death, the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the Civil War, the Enclosure Acts and a significant fire in the late nineteenth century, relatively unscathed.

My current understanding is that under the proposed Local Plan Part 2, there will be an initial development of 1,200 houses with potential further development of up to 4,500 dwellings in the future. The plan allows for a significant "buffer zone" between Shippon and the planned development which will become a new "Garden Village"; thus enabling Shippon to retain its individuality. However I now understand that after this initial review the Inspector has appeared to change his mind and said that Dalton Barracks and Shippon will together form an integrated and continuous settlement and will also be removed from the Green

Belt. I am however not aware of any reasonable explanation being put forward to explain this remarkable change of mind.

If this new scenario comes to pass with the removal of the planned buffer zone between Shippon and the Garden Village and the rescinding of Shippon's Green Belt status, then the village of Shippon will simply cease to exist and will join the existing list of over 3,000 lost villages, already scattered throughout English history. All for no discernible good reason.

I have accepted the need to support the housing development plans but strongly feel that as there is more than sufficient space on the old airfield to create the new Garden Village, as originally planned, with a buffer zone, then Shippon must be allowed to retain Green Belt status and thus maintain its 1,000 year history of being one of Oxfordshire's small villages.

Yours faithfully

Neil Parkin.