

Wootton (Abingdon) Parish Council

Comments on Local Plan 2031 Part 1

Wootton Parish Council warmly welcomes the District Council's decision to removal the proposed inappropriate development for 200 houses (Wootton East) on Lamborough Hill just south of Home Close.

The Parish Council recognises the need for the VWHDC to identify sites for additional housing across the District and in principle has no objection to some development in Wootton to help meet this need; the proposed development for 64 properties at Wootton Business Park was supported, in principle, by the Parish Council.

The Green Belt Review

The Parish Council continues to have concerns about the release of land from the Green Belt without having undertaken a full review of the Oxfordshire Green Belt.

The Green Belt Review in the Local Plan considers three sites under "Wootton."

Site 9

This area lies behind Wootton Village and was considered inappropriate for development in the previous draft of the Plan as it contributes to the wider Green Belt. The land lies behind existing properties and access would be difficult. Access onto Wootton Village would have serious consequences for traffic on the road.

Site 10

This is the East Wootton site which has been recognised as inappropriate for development particularly as it is a site of highest visual amenity.

Wootton Parish Council considers that removing sites 9 and 10 from the Green Belt despite recognition that they are unsuitable for development would be likely to stimulate a series of planning applications in the future which would have a detrimental impact on the village.

Site 23

Site 23 mainly falls in the Parish of St Helen Without rather than Wootton apart from the area which is part of the Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre which is in Wootton. The southern two thirds of the site consists of the recreation ground which is protected by Fields in Trust. The northern third is the land on which the Community Centre is built.

Infrastructure

As previously stated any further development in Wootton would need to be accompanied by significant improvements to the infrastructure. Wootton is served by an inadequate bus service, primary school places are limited and at a premium. The B4017 is an overused B road as it provides a main route for through traffic from Oxford (Botley) and the A420 (Swindon, Faringdon) to Abingdon and to the A34.