

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Ms Anna Hoare
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 20: Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area (View)
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Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant? No

Q2 Do you consider the Local Plan is Sound (positively prepared, effective and Justified) No

If your comment(s) relate to a specific site within a core policy please select this from the drop down list. N/A

If you think your comment relates to the DtC, this is about how we have worked with the Duty to Cooperate bodies (such as neighbouring planning authorities)

Q3 Do you consider the Local Plan complies with the Duty to Co-operate? No

Q4 Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible. If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

The Local Plan (including Faringdon Neighbourhood Plan) projects very considerable, rapid enlargement of Faringdon, with no evidence for how housing and population increase are sustainable in terms of infrastructure, environment and services. The A420 is already at or over capacity and badly-sited,

developer-led housing (rather than being locally planned and distributed,) threatens to overwhelm the road capacity, particularly when seen in context of the traffic impacts on the whole A420 corridor between Swindon and Oxford. Junction improvements will not address the fundamental problem of excessive housing development, and local residents, especially those in villages such as Little Coxwell, already very close to the A420, fear a severe deterioration in their quality of life, local environment, health and services as a result of the combined effects of the Local Plan. Such inevitable impacts expressly contradict the Vale's stated policies for sustainability, improved transport links, human health and environmental concerns. These incompatibilities constitute glaring weaknesses in the Local Plan and call into question its democratic accountability. For legal/technical reasons, the projected new housing at Faringdon has in fact been imposed on residents by speculative developers without consultation or the right to refuse, and the Neighborhood Plan represents an attempt to justify that housing through additional planned growth. There is little semblance of 'localism' in this, and for this reason I call into question the legality of the Local Plan as well as its soundness.

Q5 Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the test you have identified above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

A full, impartial review of the environmental impacts of all proposed housing development, including that already agreed for reasons of legal compulsion, should be carried out before such development can proceed, and all mitigating measures should be agreed by local residents before it can proceed. The likely impacts on the A420 corridor, and its viability as a link between Swindon and Oxford, need to be impartially reviewed and subjected to public scrutiny and debate before any new house building can proceed between Swindon and Oxford.