

Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mrs Sarah Church
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Response Date	18/12/14 21:50
Consultation Point	Core Policy 20: Spatial Strategy for Western Vale Sub-Area (View)
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.3
Q1 Do you consider the Local Plan is Legally Compliant?	Yes
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.	North of Shrivenham

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 is not soundly prepared on a number of counts particularly pertaining to the planned development to the north of Shrivenham. Firstly, a disproportionately large number of dwellings is planned on this site in comparison to the other Western Vale sites. The location of the site up to the A420 will only exacerbate the already very heavy and dangerous traffic which occurs throughout the day on this route. Employment opportunities in Shrivenham and Faringdon are not adequate for 500 more dwellings, so the traffic towards Swindon will only worsen. The alternative route through Shrivenham village centre presents extreme danger to local residents, resulting in the death of a young boy earlier in 2014.

Furthermore, there is a glaring omission in the Plan with respect to the provision of Health Care facilities. Currently Shrivenham and Watchfield share the GP Surgery in Shrivenham, and this is already over-subscribed. There was no facility for me to register there as an expectant mother in 2013, and I was subsequently without ante-natal care for a period of some months. This was prior to the new development in Watchfield, which has brought no additional health care provision with it.

The proposed 'space' for a new primary school in Shrivenham may assist with the already oversubscribed facilities (I live 200m from Shrivenham Primary School and was told by the headteacher that there would not be space for both my daughters- they therefore cycle daily along the dangerous Faringdon Road to Watchfield Primary School), but this must be provided before development of dwellings commences. The expectation that Faringdon Community College will be able to cater for the expansion across the Western Vale is wholly unrealistic as all local villages feed into that school.

Additionally, the expectation that the housing in the site north of Shrivenham will be both in keeping with the rest of the village and affordable is unrealistic. New build flats will not cater for the families who will be drawn to the area. The area already suffers from high house prices because of the 'desirable' nature of the location. An urban style estate will ruin the character of the village, or a more rural style development will keep rental and unit prices high.

Lastly, the Plan makes no mention of current planning applications to develop the Shrivenham Golf Course between Shrivenham and Watchfield. This is a far more suitable alternative site than the north of the village (see reasons below).

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.

The proposed development of 500 dwellings should be reduced to 200 in line with the other Western Vale village developments in order to reduce the impact on health care, education and transport.

The proposed new school, or school expansion, in Shrivenham must occur before dwellings are developed: it is required now.

The Shrivenham Golf Course site (not mentioned in the Plan) provides a more suitable site, safely linking Watchfield and Shrivenham, incorporating a pre-developed site and public open space, and without the impact on the natural open spaces around Shrivenham.

Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.

After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

Q6 If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination? No - I do not wish to participate at the oral examination