

## Comment

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Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Dr Ron Colyer
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 4: Meeting Our Housing Needs ( <a href="#">View</a> )
Status	Submitted
Submission Type	Email
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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

**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 Plan states that its adoption will mean that 'the quality of rural life will be maintained' yet a number of potential development sites for substantial numbers of houses have been identified both within the Green Belt and in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Up to now, Government policy has dictated that these areas should be open to consideration for development only in 'very exceptional circumstances', a policy that the Plan seems to ignore. In the circumstances, if such development goes ahead it is impossible for the quality of life and the rural environment not to be destroyed for ever.

In conclusion, if the numbers of new houses proposed in the Plan are imposed on villages and towns in the Vale, it is impossible to see how the public services and infrastructure could possibly be improved sufficiently within the timescale to cope with the increased level of demand. The result will be a reduction in the quality of life for everyone and irreversible destruction of the countryside. The housing targets need to be reconsidered and rather than being based unquestioningly on the SHMA should be tied in more closely with the Government's own much lower household projections.