

Comment

Consultee	Mr Ron Barnes (875789)
Email Address	
Address	unknown unknown unknown
Event Name	Vale of White Horse Local Plan 2031 Part One - Publication
Comment by	Mr Ron Barnes
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Consultation Point	Core Policy 6: Meeting Business and Employment Needs (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

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.

I read the submission on the VWHDC Local Plan with great interest. When ones sees all the evidence assembled in a single document it is quite damning and convinces me that this is not just a series of incompetences but the consequence of an Executive decision to develop Wantage/Grove as a London commuter town. In order to achieve their ambition, the government, local and national, are wilfully misleading local opinion using false forecasts.

With electrification of the GW main line and the increased capacity and reduced travel times that implies, government sees this area as somewhere to help satisfy London's voracious appetite for workers, just like Peterborough, Chelmsford, Colchester, Basingstoke, etc. I am sure a new station will

be built at Grove Road which would explain why proposed development is centred on the A338 and there are no plans to improve roads such as the A417.

So far the Wantage & Grove campaign group has played a straight bat but that will not defect HMG from its ambition. As a seasoned lobbyist myself I know that at some point it becomes necessary to go out on a limb and challenge one's opponents to cut it off. I believe that time has now come for the proposed expansion of Wantage/Grove.

Once the GW main line electrification has been completed, London commuters will be queueing up to buy houses here. The serious over-estimate in the growth of local employment is simply a smoke-screen to justify the enormous allocation of land to future housing development which is currently proposed. Let them deny that on the record.