

# South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034

## Page 3: Part A - contact details

Q1. Are you responding as an:

Individual

## Page 4: Individual contact details

Q2. Due to the plan-making process including an independent examination, a name and means of contact is required for your comments to be considered:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Title</b>                                      | Dr                                       |
| <b>Full name</b>                                  | Sheelagh Bowker                          |
| <b>Business / Organisation name (if relevant)</b> | -  |
| <b>Job title (if relevant)</b>                    | -  |
| <b>Address line 1</b>                             | ██████████                               |
| <b>Address line 2</b>                             | ██████████████████                       |
| <b>Address line 3</b>                             | -  |
| <b>Postal town</b>                                | ██████████                               |
| <b>Postcode</b>                                   | ██████████                               |
| <b>Telephone number</b>                           | -  |
| <b>Email address</b>                              | ██ |

## Page 7: Part B - your comments

Q5. For comments on the Local Plan, please provide the paragraph or policy to which your comments relates. You can view a list of policies here. If you wish to comment on one of the evidence documents or the policies maps, please state the document title as well as the paragraph or policy reference.

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Document / Policy / Paragraph:</b> | Page 21 OBJ 1.1 and OBJ 1.2 Support the settlement hierarchy.... support rural communities and their way of life, recognising this is what attracts people to the district. |
|---------------------------------------|---|

Q6. Do you consider the Local Plan and supporting documents:

|                                     | Yes | No | Don't know | Not answered (OPTION HIDDEN FROM LIVE SURVEY) |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|------------|---|
| are legally compliant?              |     | X  |            |   |
| are sound?                          |     | X  |            |   |
| comply with the Duty to Co-operate? |     | X  |            |   |

Q7. Please provide further information in relation to the previous question. e.g. why you do or do not consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant or sound.

There is no policy to provide for settlement boundaries. An example would be for larger villages to remain separate from other towns or smaller villages. Larger villages are part of that all-important hierarchy - so they need protection as separate entities. Gaps between settlements are an important aspect of this separation and should be included in either Strategic Objective 1.1 or 1.2. Sonning Common residents do not want to be joined up to Reading or to other villages.

Q8. Please set out any modifications you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to your comments above. (NB - any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). It will be helpful if you could put forward your suggested wording of any policy or text as precisely as possible.

Provision should be made for settlement boundaries.

Q10. Would you like to participate at the oral part of the examination, which takes place as part of the examination process?

No

Q11. Would you like to comment on another policy or paragraph?

Yes

## Page 9: Part B - your comments

Q12. For comments on the Local Plan, please provide the paragraph or policy to which your comments relates. You can view a list of policies [here](#). If you wish to comment on one of the evidence documents or the policies maps, please state the document title as well as the paragraph or policy reference.

**Document / Policy / Paragraph:** Page 35 STRAT 2 Housing and employment requirements

Q13. Do you consider the Local Plan and supporting documents:

|                                     | Yes | No | Don't know | Not answered (OPTION HIDDEN FROM LIVE SURVEY) |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|------------|---|
| are legally compliant?              |     | X  |            |   |
| are sound?                          |     | X  |            |   |
| comply with the Duty to Co-operate? |     | X  |            |   |

Q14. Please provide further information in relation to the previous question. e.g. why you do or do not consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant or sound.

The plan promotes excessive numbers of new homes beyond what Government formulae require. Furthermore, SODC's overall housing numbers are far above local needs. Using the Government's preferred housing projections suggests a housing need of 15,000 new homes in South Oxfordshire, not the 22,000 as stated in the plan.

Q15. Please set out any modifications you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to your comments above. (NB - any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). It will be helpful if you could put forward your suggested wording of any policy or text as precisely as possible.

House building should be closely allied to projections of local need.

Q17. Would you like to participate at the oral part of the examination, which takes place as part of the examination process?

No

Q18. Would you like to comment on another policy or paragraph?

Yes

## Page 11: Part B - your comments

Q19. For comments on the Local Plan, please provide the paragraph or policy to which your comments relates. You can view a list of policies here. If you wish to comment on one of the evidence documents or the policies maps, please state the document title as well as the paragraph or policy reference.

Document / Policy / Paragraph: Page 41 STRAT 5 Residential densities

Q20. Do you consider the Local Plan and supporting documents:

|                                     | Yes | No | Don't know | Not answered (OPTION HIDDEN FROM LIVE SURVEY) |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|------------|---|
| are legally compliant?              |     | X  |            |   |
| are sound?                          |     | X  |            |   |
| comply with the Duty to Co-operate? |     | X  |            |   |

Q21. Please provide further information in relation to the previous question. e.g. why you do or do not consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant or sound.

The proposed housing density figure of 45 homes per hectare (45 dph) for larger villages such as Sonning Common, represents an 80% increase from the current 25 dph under the Core Strategy. Crucially, this higher figure is a minimum and it is inflexible, without respect for the varying characteristics of individual sites, or existing neighbouring densities to determine whether a high or lower density would be appropriate. Put bluntly, it is a one size fits all.

Q22. Please set out any modifications you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to your comments above. (NB - any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). It will be helpful if you could put forward your suggested wording of any policy or text as precisely as possible.

Existing neighbourhood housing densities should be a crucial factor in determining future housing densities.

Q24. Would you like to participate at the oral part of the examination, which takes place as part of the examination process?

No

Q25. Would you like to comment on another policy or paragraph?

Yes

## Page 13: Part B - your comments

Q26. For comments on the Local Plan, please provide the paragraph or policy to which your comments relates. You can view a list of policies here. If you wish to comment on one of the evidence documents or the policies maps, please state the document title as well as the paragraph or policy reference.

Document / Policy / Paragraph:

Page 95 H4 A housing requirement of an additional 108 homes is required from Sonning Common

Q27. Do you consider the Local Plan and supporting documents:

|                                     | Yes | No | Don't know | Not answered (OPTION HIDDEN FROM LIVE SURVEY) |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|------------|---|
| are legally compliant?              |     | X  |            |   |
| are sound?                          |     | X  |            |   |
| comply with the Duty to Co-operate? |     | X  |            |   |

Q28. Please provide further information in relation to the previous question. e.g. why you do or do not consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant or sound.

Our adopted Neighbourhood Plan already allocates 195 new homes plus reserves. Now we are informed by SODC that we need to make room for another 108. How is this justified given that the overall new homes requirement across the district is based on untested assumptions?

Q29. Please set out any modifications you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to your comments above. (NB - any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). It will be helpful if you could put forward your suggested wording of any policy or text as precisely as possible.

The assumptions for future housing need which forms the basis for the additional allocation should be rigorously tested prior to imposition.

Q31. Would you like to participate at the oral part of the examination, which takes place as part of the examination process?

No

Q32. Would you like to comment on another policy or paragraph?

No

## Page 106: Future contact preferences

Q354. As explained in our data protection statement, in line with statutory regulations you will be contacted by the programme officer (and where necessary the council) with relevant updates on the Local Plan. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have a shared planning policy database. If you would like to be added to our database to receive updates on other planning policy consultations, please tick the relevant district box(es) below:

I would like to be added to the database to receive planning policy updates for South Oxfordshire