

NEW LOCAL PLAN

Petition from South Oxfordshire Parish Councils

We, the undersigned, object to the new South Oxfordshire Local Plan, prepared by South Oxfordshire District Council, because it fails the people of South Oxfordshire in the following ways:

1. The numbers of houses that the new Local Plan proposes is based on outdated figures. SODC chose to use figures from the 2014 SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Assessment). The new Local Plan should rely on the most up to date data and guidance which is the 2016 Standard Method. This method proposes far fewer houses for the District. SODC have also further inflated the housing figure proposed by adding an unsubstantiated figure for unmet need in Oxford and a further amount 'just in case'.
2. Six out of the seven large sites for housing are in the Greenbelt. In 2018, in the NPPF, the Government strengthened the protection for the Greenbelt. The SODC new Local Plan tries to justify taking large swathes of land out of Greenbelt for development by using flimsy and circular arguments. SODC signed up to the Oxfordshire Growth Deal and use this as a justification for taking land out of Greenbelt for development. This does not equate to exceptional circumstances, it is a political choice. Therefore, the new Local Plan is unjustified in taking any land out of Greenbelt for development.
3. SODC failed to properly consult and co-operate with their local councils by rushing this new Local Plan through democratic meetings all held in one week before Christmas 2018. They failed to ensure that all documents were properly prepared and available for District Councillors to consult in time to vote meaningfully in these meetings. The new version of the Local Plan is so completely different from the last version that even SODC officers themselves admitted they could not point out changes as such because it is a whole new Plan. This new version should be consulted upon using Regulation 18 and not Regulation 19 provision.

We request that the Local Plan is redrafted in accordance with the Standard Method of housing need, with all the Greenbelt sites taken out; and that adequate time is taken to prepare the documents, making them available to be consulted upon in a timely and legally compliant manner.

Cuddesdon and Denton Parish Council



M J MOUNT
Parish Clerk