

**Angela Dickinson:**

**Response to SODC Local Plan: Land North of Bayswater Brook: SODC Local Plan 2034**

My objections to the Local Plan are:

**1. Increased Traffic**

██████████ Barton ██████ is currently incredibly difficult to get off the estate by car in the morning. Traffic is generally backed up past the crematorium on Bayswater Road. Other side roads of Barton are also backed up with traffic- as people struggle to join Bayswater Road to get onto the Green Road roundabout. Traffic on all the roads that join the Green Road roundabout is similarly backed up, resulting in huge queues of traffic all converging at the roundabout. The local traffic system would be unable to cope with the additional traffic that the proposed development would generate or the proposed road joining Bayswater Road above the crematorium.

Users of public transport (buses) are also delayed by the congestion, and experience excessive delays trying off the estate.

A possible foot/cycle bridge over the A40 is mentioned but there are no detailed plans of where this would go from or how much it would cost.

The Local Plan does not address or present any solutions to these issues. There is no rail infrastructure at this side of the city and it is unlikely that a bus service would run beyond Bayswater Brook, as subsidies to bus services are no longer supported by Oxfordshire County Council, and services to the areas beyond the main estate are unlikely to be financially viable without any financial subsidy.

Currently, the Barton Park development is incomplete, and the plan does not take account of the increased traffic that this site will cause, when the 885 new dwellings are complete and occupied so will likely generate over 1,000 extra cars onto the A40 Oxford ring road, many of which will have to navigate Green Road roundabout.

*Unacceptable increased risk of accidents.*

Any increase in traffic is likely to affect the risk of accidents for pedestrians and cyclists as they compete with even more vehicles on congested roads. Current cycle lane provision through Barton is poor, and additional traffic will only worsen the experience of cyclists, making roads more unsafe and putting people off using this sustainable mode of travel.

**2. Pollution and health and well-being impacts**

Development of the Land North of Barton Brook will increase traffic pollution and affect all residents of Barton, but especially young people whose lungs are still

developing. Stationary traffic with running engines in the morning traffic jams, occurs at the same time children are walking to school.

The current traffic situation means anyone walking and cycling along these routes are breathing in exhaust fumes that affect their health in the short and longer term.

We know now that there is significant evidence that air pollution from diesel and petrol fumes, especially Nitrogen Oxide, and particulate matter from brakes and tyres severely adversely affect health and particularly lung diseases. This pollution also exacerbates existing lung disease such as asthma, which is on the rise in the population, COPD (chronic obstructive airway disease) and other disease such as emphysema.

Pollution also causes cancer. In addition, noise from traffic has been shown to be detrimental to health. According to WHO traffic noise contributes to heart attacks and strokes. Noise from major roads and bypasses will disturb sleep and generally cause a nuisance and annoyance all the time.

Barton is a designated Healthy New Town, so all of the above are incompatible with this. One of the aims of the Healthy New Town is to support all residents to make the best use of community assets, leisure facilities and green spaces so that healthy behaviours can be enjoyed as a part of every day life of all Barton residents.

I enjoy walking in the local countryside every day with my dog, and am concerned that there is also no mention of how the numerous foot paths that cross the site, will be affected and protected. These footpaths are vital for my health and mental well-being and currently offer opportunities for fresh air and outdoor exercise. We meet many [REDACTED] people from Barton while walking, so this activity also helps to prevent social isolation, providing social interaction and building a sense of community particularly for older residents.

No health impact assessment, or air quality assessment has been done for the communities, including Barton that would be affected by the proposed development of the Land North of Bayswater Brook.

I oppose this development as it will have an adverse impact on my health and well-being and on that of other residents.

### **3. Loss of local amenities, access to green space and loss of view**

One of the things I enjoy most about [REDACTED] Barton is the amazing views from the top of the estate. [REDACTED] can see for miles, across to green countryside and trees. Walking around the estate, I enjoy looking at the views, and this makes me happy.

The proposed development will mean this view will be destroyed and lost forever.

There is an increasing amount of research that links mental well being with seeing and being in green spaces. I feel that [REDACTED] residents will be deprived of this

joy and beauty and will suffer from loss of well-being and poorer mental health. Barton is a community that already experiences a great deal of material and social deprivation, and this loss would have a major detrimental impact on people (Barton is among the 20% of areas experiencing the worst deprivation in England). For people from the Barton Community, having free access to this view and easy walking access to open countryside is a vital community asset that should be preserved and once lost cannot be replaced.



Photo taken on my daily walk

There are many mature and established trees across the countryside that is proposed for development. Trees are vital for cleaning the air that we breathe. Replacing established trees with smaller newly planted trees is not a good solution. No arborial survey has been undertaken for this site.

#### **4. Loss of biodiversity and heritage**

Sydlings Copse and College Ponds, important SSSIs that are within the proposed development.

No Ecological Impact Assessment has been carried out, particularly as the Bayswater development would be very close to the extremely important SSSI Site of Sydlings Copse and College Pond which are partly owned and run by BBOWT. This unique habitat of ancient woodland, fen, marsh is home to many important and in some case rare and endangered species including –

Flora

Wood anemone, Primrose, Cowslip, Marsh-marigold, Hairy Violet, Wood Spurge, Yellow Archangel, Common, Gorse, Wild Cherry, Crab Apple, Bluebell, Herb-Paris, Ramsons (wild garlic), Bee Orchid, Common Spotted-orchid, Common Rock-rose, Viper's-bugloss, Columbine, Spindle, Amethyst Deceiver, Fly agaric,

#### Fauna

Butterflies - Brimstone, Orange-tip, Comma, Purple Hairstreak, Marbled White, Six-spot Burnet, Bloody-nosed Beetle, Glow Worms

Birds - Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Red Kite, owls

Red Fox, Weasel, European badger, Roe Deer, Common lizard, Slow-worm, Grass snake, hares, muntjac.

As well as the SSSI's the local countryside surrounding this is also rich in wildlife species. I regularly see deer, fox, badger, buzzard, red kite, kestrel, bats, green woodpecker, cuckoo, field-fare, starlings, heron, partridge, goldfinch, greenfinch, goldcrest, cowslip, newts, toads and frogs, bee orchids and numerous insect species. Seeing and being close to these animals and plants make me feel happy and bring joy to my life.



Bee orchids found in the proposed development area (not in the SSSI)

Housing developments will bring domestic animals into close proximity with the SSSI's. With housing comes domestic animals, and domestic cats from the new developments will hunt and kill reptiles, amphibians and birds. The increase in the local population of over 2,500 people will destroy these important SSSIs as people will be living close to these areas.

There is nothing that could be done that could compensate for the loss of these unique sites and any potential damage would be irreversible. You cannot replant ancient woodland or replace this unique environment.

The proposed site also has historical interest dating back to Roman times, important to the history of Oxford. The plan does not include any archaeological surveys of the site. There is a Roman well on the Wick Farm site which is Grade 1 listed.

## **5. Flood risk**

I am concerned that plans to concrete over land adjoining Barton will increase the risks of flooding as this will increase run off of rainwater rather than this soaking into the ground. Bayswater Brook is already prone to flooding, and this is could result in flooding of the homes adjoining the Brook and in the lower parts of Barton if the development goes ahead.

Putting the residents of Barton at increased risk of flooding and subsequent loss of homes due to development is unacceptable.

**Based on all of the above reasons, I would like to see the Land North of Bayswater Brook removed from SODC Local Plan.**