

[REDACTED]

From: Marie Fleming [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2019 15:51
To: Planning Policy South
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Response to the SODC Local Plan 2011-2034 for forwarding to the Planning Inspector at the Examination in Public. Re. Bayswater Brook Policy Strat 13.
Attachments: attachment 1.pdf

Dear All,

I write to strongly object to your current plans. There has been no opportunity to comment in earlier stages in the development of this plan.

Building houses on green belt land is not the solution to the housing crisis and should be avoided at all cost. I also note that building on green belt land is against the Government's National Planning Policy Framework and this can only be over-ridden in exceptional circumstances. This is not an exceptional circumstance.

The areas proposed for development near Bayswater Brook are important natural habitats. Much is farmland. Sydlings Copse and College Pond are Sites of Special Scientific Interest. They are valued by many. My own children (aged 11 and 8) have been keeping a photographic diary of the area in Sydlings Copse over the past year or so. They love revisiting the forest, the plants (carpets of cowslips and hairy violets, orchids, bugle and bluebells in May), the birds, the insects, not to mention the wild horses and the gorse covered in bees. They love seeing the changes with the seasons. Please do not spoil the area for them. It has ignited their love of nature. Places like this will not thrive if they are hemmed in by busy roads and houses. Fresh air and open spaces are fundamental to our physical health and mental well being. Swallowing up farmland and wildlife habitats increases air pollution, flood risk and car dependency. Green space should be there for all to enjoy whether they live in the town or countryside. This is not a case of 'not in my back yard'. This is 'all of our back yards'. Once the green belt is gone, it will be lost forever.

Please, pack housing more tightly into Oxford itself rather than sprawling over the surrounding countryside. Build close to people's jobs, entertainment and amenities - areas where young people looking to get onto the housing ladder actually want to live. Build on brownfield sites. Reduce our use in cars, do not increase it.

I am happy to speak in the oral part of the hearing.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards,
Marie Fleming