

KIDMORE END PARISH COUNCIL

R F Penfold MBE	
Clerk of the Council	

30 October 2020

Dear Mr Duffield

CONSULTATION ON MODIFICATIONS TO SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE LOCAL PLAN 2034

Kidmore End Parish Council has considered the modifications to the South Oxfordshire Local Plan required by the Inspector, following the examination in public, and wishes to comment on the modifications as follows.

This Local Plan has been extended by one year to 2035, which has resulted in a higher housing number for many sites. Traffic modelling was carried out for full capacity of sites, but this traffic modelling was carried out before the Covid-19 pandemic. Car and public transport usage has changed, so new traffic modelling is required to reflect these changes. Now people require more local infrastructure, including parks, employment, medical facilities, schools and shops.

The Inspector backs Council strategies across the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty for Oxford and Vale, and supports no development in smaller villages. Kidmore End Parish Council agrees with this.

Regarding Reading, developers are lobbying for housing needs to be met in South Oxfordshire. Reading Borough Council has not asked for this, and the Inspector supports this approach in the Local Plan. This Council agrees that the housing needs from Reading are not built in South Oxfordshire.

This Council supports the new Policy DES11 Carbon Reduction, where carbon emissions from new builds will be reduced by 100% by March 2030 (zero carbon). This Council also supports policies for encouraging the incorporation of renewable and low carbon energy applications within all development, sustainable design, and policies designed to achieve low carbon emissions and facilitating renewable energy generation.

There is a broad approach to development. Market towns and larger villages were expected to accommodate a 15% increase in growth. This includes, locally, Henley and Sonning Common. The Inspector wants larger villages to accommodate more than 15% growth, even if a neighbourhood development plan (NDP) is already in place. This will impact on local infrastructure and services, the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural

Beauty and increase traffic. In Sonning Common alone, there are 2 large new housing developments. The current infrastructure will not cope with further increases in housing, and this Council does not support this increase for larger villages.

This Council is concerned that the Inspector has increased housing densities (Policy STRAT5) where housing densities have been increased with a minimum net density of 45 dph, with higher densities along transport routes. The response of individuals to Covid-19 has shown that access to outside space, particularly gardens and parks, has been very important for physical and mental well-being. Increased housing density reduces the area of outside space available, and this space will be used by more people. This could potentially lead to over crowding in open spaces as seen over the summer. This Council does not support higher housing densities.

It is worrying that Policy H4 - Housing in Larger Villages, and Policy H3 - Housing in towns of Henley, Thame and Wallingford, indicate that, if houses are not delivered via an NDP where the NDP has not allocated sites to meet these housing requirements, then planning applications will be supported after 12 months of adopting the new Local Plan. Local people have developed NDPs, and the views of local people will not be taken into account under these policies. This Council does not support this over-ruling of NDPs.

This Council supports a permanent defensible edge to protect the Oxford Green Belt, but is concerned that Green Belt land will be released to provide for Oxford City's unmet housing need at Grenoble Road (Policy STRAT11 - Land south of Grenoble Road).

Modelling future recreational impacts on parks and special areas of conservation (SAC), including Little Wittenham SAC, may be out of date because of Covid-19. Public behaviour has changed in response to Covid-19 and this should be reflected in strategies and policies that are in place which cover the management and future uses of these areas.

Yours sincerely

R F PENFOLD

Clerk of the Council

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