

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)
Subject: Re: Consultation on the West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039 Proposed Submission
Date: 27 January 2023 15:23:36

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As an overview we think the Plan has been badly thought through and should be delayed until the various local interested parties, such as Bucklebury Parish Council and Bucklebury says No, are satisfied it is in the interests of all, which is not remotely the case at the present time. In short, the proposal to build 1250, 1500 or 2500 additional homes is understandably causing considerable concern among residents and councillors in Thatcham and, especially, Bucklebury. The NPPF consultation process has not yet been completed and we suggest WBC should take the opportunity, as others have done, to pause the planning process and to bring forward an updated plan when the details become known in 2023.

We are very concerned about the lack of attention to AONB issues as well as the reluctance to discuss the development potential of the considerable Brownfield sites in the area. Many of us in Bucklebury can attest to the existing problems with off-roading, littering, and out of control dogs on the Common which will only worsen as the number of vehicles increases. In short, Bucklebury has an ecosystem of national importance.

We understand no environmental research has yet taken place notwithstanding there is a statutory requirement to do so.

We further understand there has been no traffic modelling to take account of the significant increase in vehicles resulting from the proposed new homes. This is evidenced by the comments in the latest issue of the Newbury Weekly News from Mr Brian Lyttle, the WBC Planning and Transport Manager, that there is no provision for any increased parking at Thatcham Station and, moreover, there is no provision in the infrastructure plan for that. Objective 4 of the Sustainability Appraisal - to promote and maximise opportunities for all forms of safe and sustainable transport cannot be achieved if there is no significant increase in parking at Thatcham Station. Moreover, it has come to light that there is a proposal to create an exit onto Harts Hill Road(HHR). This is not a sensible proposal. The road is steep,narrow and winding, is without pavement and is already dangerous. Increasing traffic on HHR would not have a positive impact on road safety and would reduce opportunities for walking and cycling. We understand there are plans for a new car park on HHR which would add yet more traffic and may well result in an increase in anti social behaviour which is already evident in other parts of the area. In short, there does not appear to be a credible infrastructure plan or a willingness to discuss these issues, publicly, in a sensible manner.

No clear and important infrastructure plans appear to have been taken about schools and medical services in the area which are already oversubscribed.

There are many other issues which concern us and we may follow up this e.mail nearer to the time the Public Consultation ends. In any event we seek evidence based responses to these issues bearing in mind the Local Plan is meant to take us through to 2038.

Lesley and Roger Hills