

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)
Subject: Thatcham NE Development
Date: 22 February 2023 21:08:52

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I would like to register a number of concerns I have about WBC's plans for the development of 2,500 houses (or is it 1,500?) in NE Thatcham. (The number does make a significant difference to the extra healthcare and education requirements of the area.) My prime concern is about the extra traffic that will be using Harts Hill Road. This is already one of the most dangerous routes in the area, awkwardly twisty and insufficiently wide to accommodate the heavy lorries, vans and school buses, not to mention the toiling cyclists returning to Upper Bucklebury, that frequent it. On top of which, it is on occasions quite icy. Encouraging extra traffic to use this route is, quite simply, endangering lives. Then there is the long straight stretch between Upper Bucklebury and Chapel Row. This is already used as a speed track by cars and motorbikes by day and (especially) by night. Since many of the new houses will be relying on the Chapel Row surgery for their GP, there will be a need for effective speed restrictions to be installed on this stretch of road.

And then there is the environmental issue. Already it is clear that WBC cannot cope with the waste that is casually discarded from traffic passing along these routes (or, indeed, along all routes in the county, as far as I can see). This is not only a risk to the wildlife that frequents Bucklebury Common and other parts of the nearby AONB, it is also an eyesore that is a disgrace to the community that allows it. What happened to the people given Community Sentences who used to pick up litter? The NE Thatcham development can only increase the roadside garbage left lying in the area - especially if buses will be shipping the development's secondary school students to the Downs School in Compton because Kennet has no more capacity.

Please feel free to contact me about any of these issues if it would be useful.

Tim Hindle
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