

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)  
Subject: WBC LPR REGULATION19 OBJECTION  
Date: 03 March 2023 16:33:07

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## WBC LPR REGULATION 19 OBJECTION 02/03/2023

Name: Alexia Heslop

[REDACTED]

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Please accept this communication as my objection to the Thatcham NE Development plan, to build 1500-2500 houses, on the basis that it is unsound and see my reasons below:-

A Bucklebury resident for over [REDACTED] years, I have grown to love the surrounding woodlands and Common and feel very fortunate to have access to it. I am greatly concerned that this beautiful area can only be negatively impacted environmentally by the building of so many houses close by. Many thousands more people will have direct access to the area, and will want to take advantage of the landscape. It is highly likely that the increase in human traffic will have a detrimental effect on the legally protected wildlife. This is in direct contrast with the management vision for Bucklebury Common, focused on restoring and nurturing the ecosystems found around here. There is potential for more fly tipping and other anti-social behaviour around us, which inevitably comes with an increase in population, not entirely in tune with the rural environment.

We are personally making efforts to educate our children to care for the countryside around us, whether that be getting involved in Common Clearance or sticking to established paths on the Common during nesting season and we equally expect WBC to plan and act responsibly, from an environmental perspective, on our behalf .

I understand that SP17 should have a positive impact on the environment with regard to the two proposed country parks or community parks, but there's little information available on how these will be managed to protect the natural environment. I do hope that they will be managed.

I also have concerns around the potential increase in traffic through Upper Bucklebury. The proposed exit onto Harts Hill will naturally send more traffic up into the village, for those heading towards the M4 for junctions 12 & 13. For the safety of all our children, we would not wish to see more traffic coming through.

The element of the plan regarding Secondary Education Provision is very concerning. Bucklebury children currently have a choice between the Downs School and Kennet School. Mine attend Kennet. With an additional 1500 – 2500 houses in the area Kennet would easily become oversubscribed in which case Bucklebury children could no longer rely on getting a place at Kennet School. The provision of a new Secondary School does not appear to be a given, and there's almost no information on when and where a new school would/could be built. In the interim there would be no alternative but to travel to The Downs School, which is quite a distance away. My understanding is

that the basis for this plan was a study dating back to 2011 and much more work needs to be done to understand the educational needs of the community going forward.

Finally, I am concerned about the timing on the Local Plan review consultation, following Michael Gove's statement on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 which included amongst other things a focus on taking into account the character of an area when assessing how much housing can be accommodated. This most certainly applies here. Surely the most up to date guidance on planning, due to come in later this year must be used for the Local Plan.

It is vital that we plan responsibly, and recognise that the decisions taken now affect generations to come.

Alexia Heslop