From:
To: PlanningPolicy

Subject: WBC LPR Regulation 19 Objection - SP17

Date: 03 March 2023 12:40:22

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I object to the Thatcham North East Housing Development plan.

The plan is to build an excessive number of new houses on an area that can not support it. The plan would have huge detrimental consequences for the natural environment and current residents of the area.

Thatcham has already experienced rapid growth and is a very large area of houses without the supporting infrastructure. There is already large traffic congestion on the A4 and at the railway crossing at Thatcham station. The large volume of slow moving traffic at busy periods is polluting and provides poor air quality. This development would dramatically increase this issue and residents of the new development would be find themselves regularly locked in their development due to congested roads.

The plan would see a very large increase in traffic through Upper Bucklebury on Harts Hill Road. This road is already dangerous and there have been a number of recent accidents. My two children travel from Upper Bucklebury to Kennet School in Thatcham, and have to use the road for cycling or walking. This is already unsafe due to fast moving traffic on a narrow road and no foot pavements out of Upper Bucklebury. The plans would dramatically increase the traffic and with the addition of heavy vehicles during construction it would pose a real risk to all children who have to make the trip to Thatcham on a daily basis.

The plan does not include enough provision for new services to support new residents where local services are already operating at capacity. The plan does not definitively include a new secondary school which would be absolutely required. Kennet School is already near capacity and local residents will find themselves having to travel outside the area for second school provision, which would in turn increase traffic and pollution further at a time when we are battling climate change.

The development site is green fields and will involve the destruction of wild areas. There are other much better suited areas in the area housing plan that will not destroy wildlife habitat. Any development should be much smaller scale in smaller areas, using brown field areas or redeveloping industrial areas.

The development will essentially border the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this will lead to a large increase of vehicles and people travelling into a delicate area of countryside. This will directly reduce the quality of life of residents of both Upper Bucklebury and Thatcham who use the area for walking and to get away from urban areas.

Yours faithfully,

Graham Loader

