

SUTHERLAND Tara

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 January 2024 19:36
To: Planning Policy
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Oxford Plan 2040 ref SP13 Iffley Horse fields/Meadow Lane

To: The City Architect and Planning Officer
From: Simon King
Date: 4 January 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

Reference: Oxford Plan 2040 ref SP13 Iffley Horse fields/Meadow Lane

This application is seriously detrimental to the character of the Iffley Conservation Area, and has been submitted without due regard for the Council's conservation policies.

When I was chairman of the Friends of Iffley about forty years ago, I checked out the map in the document "City of Oxford: Iffley conservation Area" prepared by your predecessor Mr D. Murray sometime in the 1960s. I discovered that even then, some 60% of the undeveloped land shown on the map had already been filled in, and I suspect that the figure is now close to 90% or even more.

May I draw to your attention the following excerpt from this document?

"NEED FOR CONSERVATION: There are some 20 acres of undeveloped land in Iffley – enough to double its population if developed, even at a rather low density. Should this development depend for its vehicular access on Church Way, this ancient village road would carry too much traffic and its character, and with it the character of the whole village, would be ruined forever. Fortunately, it is possible to develop the various parcels of land from other streets surrounding the village and in a way which need not damage its character unduly".

Well, here we are some 60 years on, and Mr Murray's prediction has come true. If one observes the 300-yard stretch of Church Way between the mini-roundabout at the start of Church Way and Meadow Lane, one sees that it is single-lane only, and that most of the cars using it have to wait for oncoming traffic to clear before entering it. If there is a delivery vehicle or rubbish-collection vehicle in the road, access in or out of the village is blocked. This was not a problem 60 years ago, but it has become one now.

Mr Murray's idea about access "from other streets" no longer works. Tree Lane, East Church and Meadow Lane are all closed off, and 100% of vehicular access now depends on this single-lane stretch of Church Way. The application to develop the Horse Fields merely aggravates an existing and intolerable problem.

May I suggest that the Council go back to basics, and examine paragraph 7 in the document: "The Council will take all reasonable measures to ensure...control of excessive traffic generation".

Yours sincerely

Simon King
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