

PATEL Keerpa

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 January 2024 19:25
To: Planning Policy
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: LP2040 Oxford Local Plan consultation

Dear Planners,

I live in Iffley, on Meadow Lane, the intended site of your housing estate. When I mentioned to an Oxford City Councillor recently that I was going to comment on the Local Plan 2040 making the point to you planners that the land at Meadow Lane known as the Horse Fields (SPS13) is not appropriate for development. 'Well' he said with a weary voice, as far as he knew we had an exceptional case (he was aware that the Environment Agency had objected), but, he went on 'We (the Council) are going ahead 'because this is what the leadership of the party wants. We know it was a mistake but we have spent too much on it now to back down.'

So why should I bother? Because it is right facing up to wrong and I want to urge you to try to stop it before it tarnishes your reputation even further.

To begin with what bothers me most are the elected officials' hardheaded arrogance in the face of facts and common sense. Virtually everyone says: 'Don't proceed.' Don't try to bully the community, our residents and visitors any more than you have since the day when you purchased the Horse Fields from the Donnington Trust in a secret deal.' Since then the community has spent considerable sums, galvanised the whole community and **amassed incontrovertible evidence in all directions pointing to one thing: the substantial harm you will foist on a beautiful, peaceful, healing conservation area, vital for the well being of Oxford.** I came away thinking that your elected officials may be seeking approbation for the ramming through of their scheme when all they will reap is opprobrium.

The village's voice says it all when the Chair of the Friends of Iffley Village told you on 30 November that:

- 'The allocation of this site (Policy SP42 in LP2036) is an aberration... and will not deliver a sustainable development because the evidence which forms the basis for the allocation is deficient and inaccurate.'
- 'On the basis of substantial technical evidence... site allocation 389 is out of date... overtaken by convincing and well-founded technical information which confirms that the site is unsuitable for housing development.'

As planners, ie, civil servants, your job is to speak truth to perceived power or, to put it another way, to leave Oxford a better place than you found it. Stand up for what is right for the citizens you serve.

William Beaver

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