

OXFORD LOCAL PLAN 2040 EXAMINATION – WRITTEN RESPONSE BY HEADINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM 23rd May 2024

Objection by Headington Neighbourhood Forum

Headington Neighbourhood Forum wishes to object to the proposed Oxford Local Plan 2040 on the grounds that it does not meet the soundness test as set out in paragraph 35 of the National Planning Policy Framework. It does not (NPPF 2.3.2) include a policy on a particular issue namely **the allocation of sites of less than 10 houses**. As a consequence the plan is unsound as it is not justified (NPPF 2.31)¹

Headington Neighbourhood Plan

Protection and conservation of green spaces in Headington is one of the primary policy aims of the Headington Neighbourhood Plan (“the Plan”). During the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan this emerged as the primary issue of concern for local people. The Plan was confirmed in a referendum by 85% of those voting.

Valentia Road Site

Our particular concern is the proposal for the provision of housing on the Valentia Road green space in Headington. The Valentia Road site is included in Appendix A Inventory of Green Spaces and is covered by Plan policy GSP1 Conserving and Enhancing Public Access Green Space.²

Lack of Community Consultation

The Forum had assumed that there would be a draft policy which covered the designation of this site within the proposed Local Plan. This would have provided the opportunity for proper community consultation in accordance with the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (June 2021)³ and would have provided the opportunity for the protection of our Neighbourhood Plan policy GSP1.

Modification to Policy

We therefore seek a modification to **Policy H1 Housing Requirement** for the inclusion of all sites of less than 10 houses as listed in each Area Section.

This will provide an opportunity for full community consultation on this key element of the Local Plan and for the Forum to protect the Headington Neighbourhood Plan policies.

*Patrick Coulter
Chair Headington Neighbourhood Forum
23/05/2024*

¹ Justified – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;

² GSP 1 Conserving and Enhancing Public Access Green Space. 1. All existing public access green space in the HNPA as shown on the Green Spaces Plan will be conserved --

³) (2.8) The opportunity to make comments on formal proposals – for more advanced development proposals and planning policy documents, the City Council will meet the Regulatory requirements for community involvement, and where appropriate go beyond the requirements