



Campaign to Protect
Rural England
OXFORDSHIRE

The Boundary Committee for England
Trevelyan House
30 Great Peter Street
London SW1P 2HW

Dear Sirs,

12th January 2009

Oxford City request for a boundary extension

The Campaign to Rural England (CPRE), Oxfordshire Branch, would like to register its objection to the request made by Oxford City for a boundary extension. As you are aware, Oxford City Council applied to the Boundary Committee in late 2008 with a request that the City's administrative boundary be extended to take in an area south of Oxford currently in the administrative jurisdiction of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC).

CPRE, as its name suggests, is concerned with the protection of rural Oxfordshire, including the Oxford Green Belt, from inappropriate forms of development.

This application from the City Council follows the Government's recent recommendation, in its proposed changes to the South East Plan, that a limited review of the Green Belt south of Oxford take place in order to allow for a mixed use development including some 4,000 dwellings. Following the recent consultation period the Secretary of State, DCLG, has not yet determined whether this development should go ahead or not. The proposal is not in the draft South East Plan and is opposed by the County Council, SODC, and the parishes that would be affected.

The City Council has applied to you for a boundary extension that would take in a swathe of territory south of Oxford, some 530 hectares, far greater than would be needed to accommodate even what the Government has suggested. Moreover, it would make the City Council the planning authority on its own contentious proposal to remove land from the Green Belt which the CPRE considers wholly undesirable.

It is our fear, shared with others including the Oxford Green Belt Network that the City Council is intending, by means of this application, to create a large land bank for future unspecified uses, contrary to all existing local or emerging plans. Such physical

expansion would have the effect of filling in the gaps between Oxford and nearby villages to the south of the City conflicting with national Green Belt policy as set out in PPG.2.

It is for this reason, that on behalf of CPRE Oxfordshire, I am writing to you to express our grave concern at the City's request and to express the hope that it will be rejected.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce Tremayne, Chairman, CPRE Oxfordshire