

South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034

Publication Version Representation Form

Please return by 5pm on Monday 18 February 2019 to: Planning Policy, South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB or email it to planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk

This form has two parts:

Part A – contact details

Part B – your comments / participation at oral examination

Part A

Are you responding as an: (please tick)

Agent

Business or organisation

Individual

Due to the plan-making process including an independent examination, a name and contact details are required for your comments to be considered. If you are acting on behalf of another organisation, please provide their details in column one and your company name and contact details in column two.

	1. Personal Details	2. Agent Details (if applicable)
Title	<input type="text" value="Mrs"/>	<input type="text"/>
Full Name	<input type="text" value="Helen"/>	<input type="text"/>
Job Title (where relevant)	<input type="text" value="Marshall"/>	<input type="text"/>
Organisation (where relevant)	<input type="text" value="CPRE OXFORDSHIRE"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 1	<input type="text" value="20 High Street"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Postal Town	<input type="text" value="Watlington"/>	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	<input type="text" value="OX49 5AF"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number	<input type="text" value="01491 612079"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	<input type="text" value="campaign@cpreoxon.org.uk"/>	<input type="text"/>

For information on **sharing your details**: please see page 3

Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

For comments on the Local Plan, please provide the paragraph or policy to which your comments relates.

If you wish to comment on one of the evidence documents or the policies maps, please state the document title as well as the paragraph or policy reference.

Document / Policy / Paragraph:

ENV 12 Pollution & Dark Skies

Do you consider the Local Plan and supporting documents:

(1) are legally compliant

Yes

No

Don't know

(2) are sound

Yes

No

Don't know

(3) comply with the Duty to Cooperate

Yes

No

Don't know

Please provide further information in relation to the previous question. e.g. why you do or do not consider the Local Plan to be legally compliant or sound.

General Pollution

ISSUE:

As drafted the policy ENV12 is exceptionally weak and bland giving no indication of what development proposals should do to address all pollution problems.

Light pollution and dark skies

ISSUE:

Currently the plan does not have a positive policy to conserve and enhance dark skies to fulfil these Government policies and aspirations and there is no basis for monitoring this aspect of the quality of people's environment.

BACKGROUND: The Government's Rural White Paper published in 2003¹ observed that:

"It is not just its physical features which give the countryside its unique character; there are also less tangible features such as ... dark skies and remoteness from the visible impact of civilisation."

The White Paper went on to state that: *"Increased measures will be taken to promote tranquillity"*.

Influences on tranquillity in the countryside identified in the White Paper included light pollution

9.4.4. 'Light pollution' of the night sky is an increasing intrusion into the countryside at night, and it is an issue that we want all rural local authorities to take into account in their planning and other decisions. Local planning authorities have powers, for instance, to control many external lighting installations."

DEFRA's 25 year plan (2017) states in respect of AONBs and National Parks that:

Over the next 25 years we want to make sure they are not only conserved but enhanced. Many of the policies set out in the rest of the Plan will contribute to making all areas more beautiful.

¹ *Our Countryside: The Future - A Fair Deal for Rural England* (Defra 2000)
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/ruralwp/whitepaper/default.htm>

One of those policies is that DEFRA is committed not just to minimising additional pollution but to ‘*cut all forms of pollution*’ – including light:

Over the next 25 years, we must significantly cut all forms of pollution and ease the pressure on the environment. We must ensure that noise and light pollution are managed effectively.

Most recently, the updated National Planning Policy Framework 2018 has reaffirmed

180. Planning policies and decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location, taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development. In doing so they should:.....

- *limit the impact of light pollution from artificial light on local amenity, intrinsically dark landscapes and nature conservation.*

There is specific Planning Practice Guidance on Light Pollution - [PPG - Light Pollution](#)

It may be helpful to refer to CPRE’s Night Blight project <https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/> which includes a report *Night Blight* which has revealed more about the nature of problem caused by light pollution, and has also highlighted ways in which it can not only be contained but actively reduced (See: https://nightblight.cpre.org.uk/images/resources/Night_Blight_cpre.pdf). CPRE has also produced an interactive Night Blight map - <https://www.nightblight.cpre.org.uk/> which highlights in detail light pollution across England.

The key recommendations of CPRE’s nationwide study on Dark Skies Shedding Light (2014) should be considered:

- Policies to control light pollution should include identifying existing dark areas that need protecting.
- A strong presumption against new lighting in existing dark areas, unless essential as part of a new development or for public safety reasons that have been clearly demonstrated.
- Street lighting policy to include Environmental Lighting Zones to ensure that the appropriate lighting levels with very strict requirements applying in identified dark areas.
- Adoption of part-night lighting schemes (e.g. switching off between midnight and 5am) or dimming.
- Careful consideration (in conjunction with Highways authorities) to the type of Light Emitting Diodes (LED) lighting allowed and the potential impacts that higher temperature blue rich lighting has on ecology and on human health.
- Targets (in conjunction with Highways authorities) for replacing all their street and road lights with less light polluting types.
- Testing in situ of any new street lighting before being rolled out across a wider area.
- Adopt monitoring procedures that include collaboration with the Institution of Lighting Professionals/LANTERNS research project which aims to quantify any effects of changes to street lighting on road traffic accidents and crime.

(Continue on page 4 if necessary)

Please set out any modifications you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to your comments above. (NB - any non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination).

It will be helpful if you could put forward your suggested wording of any policy or text as precisely as possible.

Policy ENV12: Pollution - Impact of Development on Human Health, the Natural Environment and/or Local Amenity (Potential Sources of Pollution)

1. Development proposals should be located in sustainable locations and should be designed to ensure that they will not result in significant adverse impacts on human health, the natural environment and/or the amenity of neighbouring uses.
2. The individual and cumulative impacts of development on human health, the natural environment and/or local amenity will be considered when assessing development proposals.
3. ~~The consideration of the merits of~~ **All** development proposals ~~will be balanced against~~ **should seek to avoid, minimise and where possible reduce or reverse the** adverse impact on human health, the natural environment and/or local amenity, ~~including~~ **from** the following factors:
 - noise or vibration;
 - smell, dust, odour, artificial light, gases and other emissions;
 - air pollution, contamination of the site or its surroundings and hazardous substances nearby;
 - land instability; and
 - any other relevant types of pollution.
4. **In order to ensure that the Dark skies of the District are conserved and enhanced, the Council will:**
 - **Seek to avoid or minimise light pollution from new development across the District, defining Environmental Lighting Zones where appropriate ensuring that appropriate light management technologies and programmes are implemented**
 - **Develop/adopt technical guidance to help inform light management through use of technology and other means**
 - **Only permit the installation of external lighting for rural buildings where:**
 - i) the means of lighting is appropriate, unobtrusively sited and do not involve excessive levels of light;**
 - ii) the elevations of buildings, particularly roofs, are designed to limit light spill;**
 - ii) the proposal would not have a detrimental effect on local amenity, character of a settlement or wider countryside, intrinsically dark landscapes or nature conservation**
 - **Liaise with the Highways Authority and others to reduce light pollution from existing sources by installation of less light-polluting technologies and smart control of lighting**
 - **Support the designation of Dark Sky Discovery Sites and Areas**
 - **Support community initiatives to reduce light spill from external lighting and promote other community dark skies initiatives to develop awareness and good practice.**

(Continue on page 4 if necessary)

Would you like to participate at the oral part of the examination, which takes place as part of the examination process? *

Yes

No

* **Please note:** the inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the public hearing.

Signature:

(this can be electronic)

Date:

15.2.19

Sharing your personal details

All comments will be submitted in full to the Secretary of State alongside a submission version of the Local Plan. The Secretary of State will appoint an independent planning inspector, who will carry out an examination of the plan.

Your name, contact details and comments will also be shared with the planning inspector and a programme officer, who will act as a point of contact between the council, inspector and respondents. This means that you will be contacted by the programme officer (and where necessary the council) with updates on the Local Plan. This is required by Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 and Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

We have received assurance that the data passed to the planning inspector and programme officer will be kept securely and not used for any other purpose. The inspector and programme officer will retain the data up to six months after the plan has been adopted. South Oxfordshire District Council will hold the data for six years after the plan has been adopted.

Comments submitted by individuals will be published on our website alongside their name only. No other contact details will be published. Comments submitted by businesses and/or organisations will be published on our website including contact details. If you would like to know more about how we use and store your data, please visit www.southoxon.gov.uk/dataprotection

Future contact preferences

As explained in our data protection statement, in line with statutory regulations you will be contacted by the programme officer (and where necessary the council) with relevant updates on the Local Plan. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils have a shared planning policy database. If you would like to be added to our database to receive updates on other planning policy consultations, please tick the relevant district box(es):

- I would like to be added to the database to receive planning policy updates for South Oxfordshire
- I would also like to be added to the database to receive planning policy updates for Vale of White Horse

Further comment: Please use this space to provide further comment on the relevant questions in this form. **You must state which question your comment relates to.**

Alternative formats of this form are available on request. Please email planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk or call 01235 422600 (Text phone users add 18001 before you dial).

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