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working locally and nationally to
protect and enhance a beautiful,
thriving countryside for everyone to
value and enjoy

3 March 2020

To: All South Oxfordshire District Councillors
Cc Mark Stone, Chief Executive
Adrian Duffield, Head of Planning
Cllr Ian Hudspeth, Leader, Oxfordshire County Council

Dear Councillor

The submitted Draft South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2032 is not fit for purpose and no council, of whatever persuasion, should be seeking to implement it

Decision time is approaching for the SODC draft Plan. Most of you know the planned number of houses is vastly in excess of the number needed for the residents of South Oxfordshire and such rapid development would do considerable damage to our environment, communities and character of our District.

You will also know that, when asked, the residents of South Oxfordshire reject this excessive development and over 75% support the protection of the Oxford Green Belt, believing it should remain open and undeveloped¹. Indeed successive Governments have re-affirmed their support for the preservation of the Green Belt and, only last week, the head of the National Infrastructure Commission reiterated this view. And yet here we are considering whether to give in to the Government and accept their poorly thought out targets. CPRE asks you to stand up and be counted and vote against the Local Plan.

We reiterate our view that the District does have a plan, adopted in 2012, which, with minor revision could last until 2027. This should give time to develop a really exciting and sustainable plan for the future.

You must know the current draft Plan is flawed. The number of houses is many times in excess of the Office for National Statistics projections for the growth of households for the District. The draft was developed before the recognition of the Climate Emergency facing the country. The scale of development, the settlement pattern and roads envisaged in the plan can only result in a congested, car based commuter society, totally unfit for the 21st Century.

We ask you to stand up for your principles and call on the Government to give South Oxfordshire the opportunity to develop a plan which will protect the environment and give future generations a beautiful and sustainable place to live.

Professor Richard Harding
Chairman, CPRE South Oxfordshire

1. See <http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/news/item/2447-cpre-survey-shows-majority-don-t-want-to-build-on-green-belt?highlight=WyJncmVlbilslidncmVlbilslmdyZWVuJylsImJlbHQiLCJiZWx0JywiLCJiZWx0Jy4iLCJiZWx0J3MiLCJiZWx0JylslN1cnZleSlsImdyZWVuIGJlbHQiLCJncmVlbilBiZWx0IHh1cnZleSlsImJlbHQgc3VydmV5llo=>