



NEWS RELEASE

17 September 2015

Local communities will take strong message to Inspector on need to protect rural Vale

Representatives of Parish Councils and local action/campaign groups from across the Vale met this week to share their concerns about the District Council's draft Local Plan, which is to go before an Inspector for examination on Tuesday 22 September.

There was consensus amongst those present at the meeting, facilitated by CPRE Oxfordshire, that the Vale's draft Plan is based on an overall housing requirement which is far too high, impossible to deliver, unsustainable and damaging to the rural character of the county.

Representatives considered professional analyses which demonstrated that the economic assumptions behind the housing figures, such as employment forecasts, were mistaken.

There were also worries that the county's infrastructure, especially its roads, many of which are already at or near capacity, could not accommodate such aggressive growth, without significant improvement, to which there is no commitment.

Peter Collins, Chairman of CPRE Vale of White Horse District, said: "Between us, we will be giving the Inspector a very clear and consistent message about our concerns on housing numbers, economic projections and infrastructure."

The meeting was attended by representatives from the following parish councils: Chilton, Cumnor, Drayton, East Hendred and Harwell.

Local action/campaign groups included CPRE Oxfordshire, Keep Harwell Rural, North Abingdon Local Plan Group, Sunningwell Parishioners against Damage to the Environment (SPADE), Wantage and Grove Campaign Group and Western Vale Villages Consortium.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

All the Written Statements by participants attending the initial Hearings are available at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-local-plan-2031/vale-white-horse-local>

The Matters and Questions for discussion and the Programme for the Hearing Sessions are available at:

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/new-local-plan-2031/vale-white-horse-local>

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The Campaign to Protect Rural England fights for the Oxfordshire countryside: to protect it from the threats it faces, and to positively shape its future - join us today and stand up for your countryside!

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