



The countryside charity
Oxfordshire

Campaigning to protect our rural county

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planning.consultation@westoxon.gov.uk

Dear Planning Team,

Re: Response on the Local Plan 2041 Focused consultation on Ideas and Objectives

CPRE West Oxfordshire has been working with our West Oxfordshire parish colleagues to discuss our views on this consultation. We all share the same aspiration, to keep the countryside of West Oxfordshire open and ensure sustainability for future generations.

To meet this aspiration, we wish to submit the following joint comments and recommendations on the consultation:

Housing numbers

- It is difficult to make constructive comment on the housing scenarios when the report gives no indication of the number of houses involved. Housing numbers should be made available for consultation as soon as possible and prior to the next formal stage of the consultation.
- The West Oxfordshire Local Plan should consider and meet the genuine housing needs of those living in West Oxfordshire. In our view, this means at a maximum sticking to the Government's Standard Housing Methodology, which incorporates a 40% uplift to tackle affordability. WODC **should not use** the overinflated and highly criticised housing numbers presented by Oxford City and Cherwell in the City's recent REG 18 Part 2 consultation, the HENA report. WODC should also resist accommodating Oxford City housing overspill which would be better tackled by making more efficient use of land within the City.
- Priorities should be social housing and start up housing (ideally 1 or 2 bedroom homes)

Land use

- There should be a county-wide land use strategy, including for renewables, to ensure we are making best use of land, which is a scarce resource, and to minimise speculative development. Such a strategy would help to protect the countryside in general, especially land currently used for food production.
- Meanwhile, the Local Plan needs a "Brownfield sites first" policy on all development.
- This should include a very clear rooftops/car parks/brownfield first policy for renewable energy.
- Development in the Oxford Green belt or AONB must be **genuinely exceptional**, based on specifically identified local settlement needs that cannot be met elsewhere.



- Avoid development on other protected land such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Conservation Target Areas (CTAs).

Environment & Biodiversity

- All new development should be fit for the future, aiming for zero carbon in construction and operation.
- New developments should include hedgerow and green spaces which the developer must maintain for a minimum of 5 years.
- The Plan should support the emerging Oxfordshire Nature Recovery Network and clearly embed this into development planning policy.
- The Plan should support the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership in calling for a minimum 20% net gain in biodiversity on any new development.
- The Plan should allow no developments that rely on draining water into rivers and watercourses or add to pressure on sewage treatment works that are already at or over capacity. Where necessary a Grampian condition should be placed on new development to ensure this.

These are the views of:

Alvescot Parish Council
Asthal parish council
Black Bourton Parish Council
Combe Parish Council
CPRE West Oxfordshire
[Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign](#)
Filkins & Broughton Poggs Parish Council
Freeland Parish Council
Kencot Parish Meeting
Minster Lovell Parish Council
Ramsden Parish Council
South Leigh and High Cogges Parish Council
Standlake Parish Council
Swinbrook & Widford Parish Council

Yours faithfully,

Philippa Phelan

Chair, CPRE West Oxfordshire



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