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Dear Sir/Madam

WBC Local Plan 2022-2023  
WBC LPR Regulation 19 Objection

I am writing in response to the above plan, particularly as it effects North Thatcham.

**Traffic from proposed new housing in North Thatcham**

With the proposed housing while I see the A4 is supposed to take a lot of the increase in traffic I would expect the 50% will need to go north or south. To the south the Level crossing traffic would increase with no mitigation (Bridge?). To the North would see increase traffic through the backroads via Upper Bucklebury which I feel is not designed for the increase, and would become a rat run.

Also, Harts Hill Road (which shows on the plan to have car park for some reason) is not suitable for increase traffic, particularly large lorries on a steep twisting hill which is a problem now. Also, it has no pedestrian walkway if some of the children from this estate were suppose to go to the infant school in Upper Bucklebury. At present it is dangerous to walk up or down this hill, particularly in the dark.

**Healthcare & Dental Practices**

All 3 GP Surgeries are overstretched and there appears to have not been by WBC or the developers to any approach to any of the local practises to accommodate the 3-4,000 extra people.

The Thatcham dental practises are unable to provide for the present population. Has WBC or the Developers approached any of the dental practises?

**Environment**

Bucklebury Common is a wonderful place, but has risks with additional major housing on its doorstep of being damaged with no evidence that this can be mitigated. Indeed, the management vision for the Common is explicitly focused on not increasing human pressure on the fragile ecosystems. The two 'County Parks' quoted we now note in SP17 have been downgraded to 'Community Parks, whatever this means. More detail is need to explain how the 4000 residents will have outdoor space to roam without effecting Bucklebury Common.

## **Education**

While I have no children of school age, I am concerned that secondary school choice may reduce. At present children go either to Kennet School or The Downs as they are in the catchment.

Where schools are oversubscribed those children who live nearer get priority. This would affect children wishing to go to Kennet School (the closer school) from Upper Bucklebury as I can see no concrete evidence that an additional school is to be build or the increase of Kennet School is to happen

Yours faithfully

Jeff Ford

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