

Proposal for 1500 Houses in NE Thatcham

We live in Upper Bucklebury and are appalled by the proposal to build 1500 houses as an enormous extension of Thatcham, threatening to swallow up our village.

You will know of the increased strain on Thatcham, already overloaded and with little recent infrastructure. Kennet School is already over full and cannot take any more pupils. Broad Lane, Upper Bucklebury, already often has too much traffic and another lot of about 1500 cars would completely overload the system.

However I particularly want to draw your attention to the impact on Bucklebury Common. The Common is an important part of what little is left of lowland heath in Southern England. A number of unusual birds breed there; there are nightjars, stonechats, woodlarks and sometimes tree pipits. A lot of time and trouble and indeed money have been spent to preserve the heath as heathland, in particular by control of the encroaching birch. The birds mentioned all nest on or near the ground and the nests are likely to fail if disturbed by dogs... If 1500 houses are built there would be a not very different number of dogs and many of them would be exercised on the Common. This would alter the ecosystem substantially and we might in effect lose the heath.

For these reasons and many others I hope you will reject the proposal for 1500 houses in NE Thatcham.

