

Carol A E Doggett

THATCHAM NE DEVELOPMENT
Re: WBC LPR Regulation 19 Objection

Transport

Massive increase of traffic on all our roads

Roads already in a dreadful state of repair

Increase in traffic through the villages especially Bucklebury, Cold Ash and Bradfield

No pavements, street lighting

Increased perils to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders

More wild life road kill - deer, muntjac, pheasant

The Common Road from Upper Bucklebury to Chapel Row is particularly fast and The Avenue has had a large number of serious accidents

Healthcare

Local GP surgeries already overstretched. Where will the new ones be sited?
I trust not using more greenfield sites

A Hospital would need to be built as Reading and Basingstoke are overloaded. Where would that be sited?

Dental Surgeries, again already full to the brim.

No discussion with any of the above have been instigated

Only 3 small pharmacies in Thatcham that cannot cope with demand now

Promises have been made with previous developments that this would be addressed but nothing has ever been done

Utilities

After years of correspondence and complaints to Thames Water we have at last got a reliable Pumping Station so when we turn our taps on, water comes out. However, this has brought on another problem of old and weak pipes resulting in numerous pipe bursts, wastage of water, interruption to supplies. Thames Water are overstretched allowing leakages to carry on for

hours (sometimes days) and then just coming along and putting an Elastoplast on the pipe which is never permanent. A development of this size would negate any benefit we have gained and exacerbate the problem

Sewerage

Needs updating as the present stations are old and inefficient and will not cope with the development. Any leakage with end up in the river with massive pollution

Environment

The surrounding area has a wide, diverse and important range of flora and fauna which will be lost forever

As the population grows we need more greenfield sites for farming to feed us, not taking them away

What is the point of have protective status, i.e. SSSI's and AONB's, if they can be overruled and ignored when it suits

The increased footprint over Bucklebury Common and the surrounding areas will damage the balance of wildlife. It will also cause more danger to walkers and horse riders who need to avoid the now very dangerous, busy local roads

Education

Schools already oversubscribed so will need to build more. Where? Greenfield sites again?

Promises have been made with previous developments that this would be addressed but nothing has ever been done. There is no indication that any research or plans have been made to fulfil the Council's duty to make arrangements for suitable school provision.

Local Amenities

Where will residents of the development shop? Thatcham only has 3 small supermarkets and the rest of the units are eating places, betting shops and hair dressers

Where will these people park?

Leisure Facilities

Very restricted and no plans to address this

In conclusion this beautiful area where I have lived for over 60 years is gradually becoming a concrete jungle with no regard for the inhabitants, their quality of life or nature. The countryside, flora and fauna are being eroded with thousands of houses and flats being built over the last 20 years

with promises made to update this and upgrade that, build schools etc but **NEVER** have any of these promises been fulfilled. The countryside is being destroyed by increase of use especially with anti-social behaviour, motorbikes, 4-wheel vehicles who have already decimated areas of our beautiful Common and people who have no idea of the Countryside Code, resulting in loss of livestock to farmers and damage to crops.

It breaks my heart to see this lovely area destroyed and I take my life in my hands whilst walking or horse riding. I dread to think what it will be like if these houses are built.

No one has made any attempt to address the problems of health and education and certainly have made no attempt to understand the grave impact this development will make on the area.

There is also the statement in December by Michael Gove that the housing number should now be an advisory starting point and not mandatory.

So, please will you listen to the voice of the people and reject this proposed development.

Mrs Carol Doggett

27 February 2023