

## Comment

Consultee	Mr Chris Willett (1269445)
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Event Name	Proposed Submission (Reg 19) West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039
Comment by	Mr Chris Willett (1269445)
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Consultation Point	Policy SP 17 North East Thatcham Strategic Site Allocation ( <a href="#">View</a> )
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Bookmark	Willett, Chris

### 2. Do you consider the Local Plan Review is sound?

*Please see the guidance notes for an explanation of what 'soundness' means.*

The soundness of the LPR should be assessed against the following criteria from the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

*Please tick all that apply:*

**Positively Prepared:** The plan provides a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed need and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development.

**Justified:** the plan is an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence.

**Effective:** the plan is deliverable over the plan period and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than

**deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground.**

**Consistent with national policy: the plan should enable the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies of the NPPF.**

**Please give reasons for your answer**

Further to my previous Letter of Objection , dated 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 (Re Policy SP17) which covered all of the normal topics such as the detrimental affect on the AONB, increased traffic, pressure on Health Care and Education facilities, Lack of Parking in Thatcham centre, etc ,etc, I now submit my further Letter of Objection (Re WBC LPR Regulation 19 ) which focusses more specifically on the potential use of existing, and available , 'Brown field' sites for future housing development and on the reduction in

Housing Targets set by Central Government.( I still maintain all of my previous objections and therefore feel no need to repeat them here )

The CPRE February 2023 Newsletter points out that the local authority Brownfield Registers have identified over 359 Brownfield sites in Berkshire, which could theoretically enable the construction of up to 21,000 new homes, and in West Berks alone there are 53 such sites identified, which could allow the construction of up to 2837 new homes of varying types. These would also have the added benefit of being more evenly distributed across the area, rather than concentrated in the North Thatcham area

It is also clear that the Minister for Housing (Michael Goves) has committed to a reduction of housing target numbers and that the targets are 'Advisory' only (NOT 'Mandatory' )

The proposed development in North Thatcham is therefore clearly an unnecessary and unsustainable OVERDEVELOPMENT this beautiful area of Greenfield land adjacent to the AONB.

We as long term residents object to the proposals in the strongest terms and would be happy to appear at the public enquiry, if so invited.

**5. Independent Examination**

**If your representation is seeking a change, do you consider it necessary to participate at the examination hearing session(s)?** Yes

*If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary.*

*Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.*

We as long term residents object to the proposals in the strongest terms and would be happy to appear at the public enquiry, if so invited.

**6. Notification of Progress of the Local Plan Review**

**Do you wish to be notified of any of the following?**

*Please tick all that apply*

**The submission of the Local Plan Review for Independent Examination**

**The publication of the report of the Inspector appointed to carry out the examination**

**The adoption of the Local Plan Review**