

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)
Subject: WBC LPR Regulation 19 objection
Date: 23 February 2023 21:17:04

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Lindy Clarke



Dear Sirs

I have lived in Bucklebury for the last 32 years and have been a parish councillor for the last 16 years. I am deeply concerned about the impact this proposal will have on the local area. My objections are as follows:

It was made plain when we did our parish plan that Bucklebury residents very much appreciate the rural feeling of the parish and the peace and quiet of the neighbourhood. This proposal will destroy that feeling. It has always been important to have a strategic gap between the rural parish of Bucklebury and the more urban settlement of Thatcham, and building 1500 houses between them will mean that that separateness will disappear.

The proposed housing is on the edge of the North Wessex Downs AONB and very close to the fragile ecology of the beautiful Bucklebury Common, with its ancient trees, rare heathland habitats and the flora and fauna which flourish there. The increase in traffic and footfall to our area from all these households will put all this under threat.

I am concerned about the impact of traffic on our roads, as cars drivers try to avoid traffic jams on the A4 and use the roads through Upper Bucklebury and beyond to get to their destination. Harts Hill is a dangerous hilly road with many bends, and a new roundabout and car park on this road will only make it more dangerous. There is no plan to build a bridge over the railway at Thatcham where currently there can be long tailbacks at the crossing, which will only get worse with all these extra houses. I understand there have been other housing proposals south of the A4, which have included building this bridge, and yet these have not been properly considered by WBC. Why?

The original plan was to build 2500 houses, this has now been reduced to 1500 but in a shorter time scale, and yet the area designated for housing is still the same, so the assumption must be that further housing will be proposed at a later date.

I am very concerned about the impact on our medical facilities and dental surgeries, all of which are at full capacity before the houses are built. A Health Impact Assessment does not seem to have been undertaken by the council or the developers, nor does there seem to have been any dialogue with local GP practices. There is a great shortage of GPs, particularly in the south east and it is a mystery how any new surgery could be adequately staffed. The same is true of dental surgeries.

Schooling is another concern. The LPR is unclear on how and where primary and secondary education will be provided and at what stage of the housing development.

Finally, why has WBC gone straight ahead with this proposal whilst government guidelines on the need to provide numbers of housing are under review. Surely the council should have delayed their proposal until the government position is clearer.

For all these reasons, I believe that this concentration of housing in this area is wrong and the plan is unsound in several ways. I am afraid that the rural nature of Bucklebury will be lost forever by this mistaken and poorly researched proposal. I would also like to know why other proposals by developers have not been considered in more depth.

Yours sincerely

Lindy Clarke

Sent from my iPad