

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)
Subject: Housing development Objection
Date: 14 February 2023 21:47:00

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Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to submit my very very strong objection to the housing development that has been planned for between Thatcham, Midgham and Bucklebury along the A4. I feel really distraught at what is being proposed, the building of 2,500 houses on grass and farmland! The mayhem that such a massive development will cause to the infrastructure to the A4 corridor and surrounding areas is extremely disturbing. The pollution of light and noise, along with the added car fumes of possibly 5,000 more cars crawling along the already congested, slow moving, one lane A4 is just showing a complete lack of empathy for the residents and wildlife of the area, if such a development were to go ahead. Apart from the fact, that building this massive estate between the villages of Thatcham and Midgham, is going against the ruling, that there should be no joining of villages, which would happen, if the green fields that separate the two villages are used to be built upon.

In the late 1970's the housing development of 6,000 houses in Lower Earley in Reading was at the time considered the largest in Europe, and here, West Berkshire are considering building 2,500 houses between two old historical villages, it is nothing short of an act of rural vandalism!

I am a regular walker in the countryside of Midgham and Bucklebury and I see it as an area of natural beauty of rolling hills and lovely trees full of wildlife. On the field of Cox's Lane I have often seen Brown Hare and from May when the field is laying fallow I have seen Lapwings, both of which, are getting to be a rare sight in our countryside, these sightings would be lost forever if houses were built on these fields. There is also an active badger set adjacent to the fields, in fact I saw a badger out foraging when returning in the evening from the local pub quiz last month.

This habitat will be destroyed by housing just like the countryside is being destroyed throughout rural England. The countryside is precious and is for everyone to enjoy.

The health and wellbeing of the local people is also being put at risk, as the threat of this development makes for stress and instability, as there is nothing positive with this proposal for the current residents, it only takes away from the quality of living in the countryside to creating an urban sprawl. What happened to the mantra of "Walk in the countryside for your health" that the government was so keen the population do?

There are not enough Doctors, Dentist, Banks, Post Offices and Amenities for the population of the local villages as it is, we are all feeling the strain, car journeys along the A4 are already slow and frustrating it can take more than half an hour just to travel into Newbury, a distance of about 7 Miles, it is faster to walk at times! The idea of thousands of more cars trying to join the A4 from a huge housing estate is a logistical nightmare! A promise of more Schools, Doctors Surgeries, Dentist etc to accommodate the new housing population will not help the situation or make it more palatable for anyone. I think the area of West Berkshire has had it's fill of housing development. I have noticed housing developments are springing up everywhere, near Henwick and Woolhampton and along the A4 towards Reading.

It will not make any difference to me, if there is a revision for a reduced number of proposed houses of the development, or a piecemeal build over a period of time, as I don't trust the Developers, and unfortunately, I don't trust Councils, as often these arrangements are a fait accompli and they have made up there minds that, "the thing is going ahead" and I won't change mine mind that I am utterly opposed to any development on lovely green fields and farmland! I have heard with concern that a resident of the area, that attended a Parish Council meeting to appeal for funds for Midgham's contribution to fight this housing planning application was treated very rudely and dismissively.

Yes people need houses and there are suitable sites for them to be built on but losing the countryside for concrete is not the answer.

It is not a question of "not in my back yard" as I would be opposed to any destruction of meadow land for building housing estates, however, it would be interesting to know where the developers and those in agreement with blighting this area of West Berks live, as I would hazard a guess, that this plan for housing is NOT IN THEIR BACKYARD!

Yours faithfully

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Sent from my iPad