

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)
Subject: Local plan proposed submission comments
Date: 03 March 2023 15:16:25

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Hello,

Please find below my comments on the new local plan. I have been unable to access the portal but understand this is still an acceptable way to comment.

I live in [REDACTED], currently a lovely, quiet rural spot, which the current plan has suggested should have 20 of its acres built upon with a housing estate. This is so inappropriate and makes a mockery of the plans suggestion that 'outside of settlement boundaries, land will be treated as open countryside where development will be more restricted.'

The suggested development of 1500 on the northeast of Thatcham, and the west of Midgham, is still wholly inappropriate in its scale and location, despite the changes to the original plan. It abuts Cox's lane, which is a single track road leading into Midgham which helps to avoid people passing through Midgham unnecessarily, thereby helping to retain it's rural character. Already yards of hedgerow have been ripped out at the spot. Apparently someone doesn't think a consultation process is necessary. Are we to be led to believe that Cox's lane won't be ripped up to allow the heavy traffic that will result from this development better access? Midgham will be unrecognisable if this is the case.

Previously, there had been suggestions of an alternative development south of the railway station in Thatcham. This was rejected as it involved a long awaited bridge over the railway, and also on the grounds that it would increase traffic on the roads in what West Berkshire say is a rural area. I can only presume no one making these decisions lives in Thatcham. The queues through the town waiting for the railway crossing are ridiculous and, yet, that route remains the most sensible to get from Thatcham to Basingstoke. This road is far less rural, and far more accessible, than Cox's Lane.

Any large scale development of Thatcham necessitates an update of Thatcham's services, and yet this plan is found wanting. The A4 is gridlocked for large swathes of the day, and at all hours if the M4 is shut. Thatcham has previously been highlighted for needing further investment in infrastructure before any new major developments are made, and yet this plan ignores existing Thatcham entirely.

I understand the need to build new houses but the doggedness with which West Berkshire Council are pursuing this particular development against all reasonable argument is concerning.

[REDACTED]