

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)
Subject: Thatcham NE Development
Date: 04 March 2023 09:43:21

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Dear Councillors

I'm writing to strongly object to proposed north-east Thatcham development.

I have been living close to Thatcham for [REDACTED] years and during that time I have seen massive expansion in what was once a small market town. The infrastructure of the town has not really been coping for at least a decade. If this latest expansion goes ahead the inevitable increase in population will overstretch the town further.

Healthcare

As a Thatcham GP for over 30 years I know from personal experience how stretched healthcare is. During my time three large estates were built; Siege Cross, Dunston Park and the estate on the old army depot. The last two estates were built without any additional healthcare provision despite the assurances that this would be the case. The result was that the two existing surgeries in Thatcham and also the surgery in Bucklebury had to absorb the increased population. Newly located families tend to be quite high demand and of course GP list sizes increased putting extra strain on the existing services.

Transport

There will inevitably be a significant increase in the amount of traffic both in Thatcham town but also the surrounding villages. The proposed amendments to Floral Way and Harts Hill Road will result in traffic being diverted towards Upper Bucklebury and potentially lead to rat runs through the nearby villages of Cold Ash and Chapel Row.

Environment

With an additional 3000 to 4000 extra residents there will be a greater demand for access to green spaces for recreational and general well-being. The original Thatcham Growth Plan had a proposal for two country products in the near vicinity. Not surprisingly no details were provided about how these country parks would be developed. More worryingly the current management proposal for Bucklebury Common has been designed not to increase strain on the fragile ecosystem that already exists. I live in Bucklebury Common and over the last 30 years I have seen a steady increase in the amount of littering, fly tipping, trial motorbike riding and four-wheel drive abuse. This will inevitably increase with the additional population living in Northeast Thatcham.

As the site for the new development is also a greenfield site this obviously results in a negative impact on the environment.

Education

As with healthcare I am aware that this new development will put significant pressure on the existing school provision in this area. I understand there is a vague plan to build a further secondary school but there is no active negotiation with the Education Department and no land has been designated for this purpose. I have heard that the developers will contribute £15 million towards overcoming this problem but what developers promise and finally deliver on two different things.

Yours sincerely

Peter Robertson

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