From: PlanningPolicy

Subject: WBC LPR Regulation 19 Objection (proposed development of 1500-2500 houses NE Thatcham)

**Date:** 14 February 2023 08:07:11

This is an EXTERNAL EMAIL. STOP. THINK before you CLICK links or OPEN attachments.

## Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to register my formal objections to the proposed NE Thatcham housing development located between Thatcham and Upper Bucklebury. My objections are based on my review of the plans and the following concerns.

## 1. TRANSPORTATION

Traffic volume and road safety:

I live ... The lack of footpaths and the challenges of maintaining the hedge and verge near my property already pose a significant risk to my safety. The proposed development will only increase this risk for myself and other residents. The current volume of traffic and disregard for the speed limit will only get worse with the increased traffic from the development. Burdens Heath is already a popular spot for young drivers who slow right down before, accelerating fast to test their speed along the straight road. Furthermore, drivers frequently fail to slow down when entering the village. The proposed development will lead to more cars travelling through Cold Ash, Upper Bucklebury, Chapel Row, and Bradfield Southend to avoid the congested A4 and Thatcham area, making it even more dangerous to maintain my property and walk into the village. Harts Hill and Burdens Heath are narrow and winding roads that cannot safely accommodate the increased volume and size of vehicles.

## 2. LOCAL HEALTHCARE SERVICES

The current NHS healthcare services cannot meet the demand, and it is already difficult to obtain a doctor's appointment due to a shortage of GPs. The extra strain from the increased population will only make it worse. Thatcham dentists already struggle to keep up with the volume of patients and regularly cancel appointments, which can take over a year to reschedule. The proposed development will only make it harder to access dental services.

## 3. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

My property is surrounded by ancient woodlands and heaths that support a significant amount of biodiversity. The deer, which roam freely and frequently cross Burdens Heath, Harts Hill Road, Upper Bucklebury, Broad Lane, The Common, and The Avenue, feed at the rear of my property in the area where the proposed development will encroach on their habitat. The increased traffic will shrink their roaming area and increase the number of accidents involving deer,

which will reduce their population and pose a serious risk to road users. I chose to live in Upper Bucklebury to escape urban areas and enjoy the countryside, wildlife, and views. The proposed development will harm the landscape, biodiversity, and protected species in the area, such as the Great Crested Newt, which requires a licence from Natural England to protect their habitat. I am not aware if such a licence has been granted.

Kind regards

Julie Cooper