

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: WBC Local Plan Main Modifications MM25 & MM26
Date: 31 January 2025 19:41:24

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with comments in response to WBC Local Plan Main Modifications MM25 & MM26:

I would like to echo the concerns raised by the Bucklebury Parish Council. Specifically:

- The increase in dwellings to 2,500 was very surprising given the shortcomings of the original proposal for 1500.
- The houses will add significantly to an already congested road infrastructure around Thatcham - the original 1500 houses would have had an adverse impact, the 2500 will obviously be even worse. The traffic modelling for the 1500 left a great deal to desired. Those of us who use the roads **today** know that there is queuing from Harts Hill to Floral Way, further congestion getting on to the A4 from Floral Way and then hold-ups getting out of and into the eastern side of Thatcham during morning and evening rush hours respectively.
 - The roads simply cannot cope with another 2500 houses worth of cars.
 - Upper Bucklebury will become even more of rat-run than it is today. This will essentially ruin the village and impact the quality of life of all residents.
 - The road traffic modelling is not fit for purpose.
- As seems usual with all housing developments there is very little in the way of specifics and commitments to improving the community infrastructure for the development of this size. Surely this needs to be pinned down before approval for so many houses can be given. It will simply be the case of other developments - lots of houses and little improvement to infrastructure.
- Residents have no confidence or trust in WBC given how they have handled this issue so far and how little respect they have shown to Bucklebury Parish Council have only engaged with BPC very close to meeting deadlines and not allowing BPC reps to attend the meeting.
- Bucklebury residents have great concerns over the impact to the biodiversity in the area and the AONB - this is magnified by the increase in the number of houses.

I would also note that this headlong rush to concrete over the English countryside is to deal with an entirely preventable housing crisis. This shortage of houses has been the direct result of policy choices made by successive governments and the resulting significant non-organic growth in England's population. This didn't need to happen and we are all now paying the price for a broken and undemocratic system where ordinary residents views and concerns are held in contempt by politicians and bureaucrats at all

levels.

Best regards,

