

WBC Local Plan Main Modificatiuons. MM25 & MM26.

Proposed Development in North-East Thatcham.

I feel I must object to the proposal to build 2500 houses north-east of Thatcham. Thatcham is already overstretched having grown from a village into a small town without any of the necessary infrastructure.

The roads, already very busy, are likely to be inadequate. There is already a “rat run” through Bradfield Southend and Upper Bucklebury from people wanting to avoid the A4. Cars from the proposed new houses would swamp this route and the route through Cold Ash to the A34 and the M4. Thatcham station is too far for walking distance and there is very limited parking there.

There are problems already with flood water. The present drainage and sewerage systems cannot cope with the storms. Hence the A4 gets flooded after rain. How much worse would it be with the run off from 2500 houses and their driveways.

Education is another problem. The Kennet is very full and cannot easily be expanded. New educational facilities, both primary and secondary, would need to be built and it is unlikely that the developer would build them in time.

Bucklebury Common is a SSSI because it is a good example of lowland heath, the vast majority of which has been lost over the last century. With such a big conurbation so near, it is likely to attract many people and their dogs in large numbers. Their impact on ground nesting birds such as the nightjar, stonechat and woodlark would probably result in their demise.

Of course we need more housing especially of the type that most people could manage to afford and we could manage to absorb a small number locally but 2500 houses all in this one place is just not the answer.

Roger Frankum, 