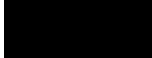
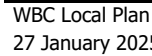


**From:**   
**To:**   
**Subject:** WBC Local Plan Main Modifications MM25 & MM26  
**Date:** 27 January 2025 13:59:18

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

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Dear Sirs

I would like to comment on the Modifications to the WBC Local Plan.

There is no indication how the increased number of houses from 2500 from 1500 will be accommodated. It was agreed that 1500 houses would have a detrimental effect on local infrastructure so how can 2500 houses be justified?

Harts Hill will be especially compromised. This is barely a two lane road as it is with several sharp bends and no pavements or space for bike lanes on either side. Harts Hill connects up with narrower lanes linking small villages, these lanes will be used for access to the M4 and A34 thus endangering local pedestrians and cyclists.

I understand that the A339 Newbury to Basingstoke route has little improvement planned, and that no improvements at all are envisaged for the A4, which is often gridlocked. One of the biggest problems for traffic around Thatcham is the lack of a road bridge over the main line railway. How is this going to be improved?

Where are the extra schools and doctors' surgeries going to go? Will they be within easy walking distance of the new houses? If not then more car journeys will be needed which is not in line with current government thinking.

Whilst an amount of work has taken place to protect Thatcham from more floods is this going to be sufficient for 2500 extra houses taking up green space, uprooting trees and local flora which in turn will increase the risk of flooding.

The existing provision for sewage is insufficient. Where are the extra sewage works going to be situated?

There is significant concern over potential harm to biodiversity resulting from development of the site. Bucklebury Parish Council engaged an ecological expert who found the ecology surveys and evidence were incorrect and insufficient for 1500 houses, and this has not been updated for the extra 1000 houses. Pressure will be put on the local environment, which naturally connects to other wildlife sites, and encroaching housing and human activity will have a detrimental effect on this.

Surely there must be brownfield sites which could be used for housing which would not impact the current National Landscape setting of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

Like many other people in this community I hope there will be a sensible rethink about this plan.

Kind regards

Prue Matchwick

