

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: LP Modification MM25 & MM26
Date: 27 January 2025 15:14:32

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In support of the representations made on behalf of Bucklebury Parish Council I would make the following comments.

1. The increase of the dwellings allocated for the site to 2,500 completely ignores the permanent loss of agricultural and food producing land and the other environmental aspects mentioned below. There is no indication of how the increase will be accommodated but we are assuming that it will need to come closer to Upper Bucklebury. In effect we are having a settlement the approximate size of Hungerford foisted upon us without concrete agreement to provide the facilities needed to service this new town.

2. It seems that the highways assessment already made has been totally ignored as there will be a significant increase in highways impact when 1,500 movements were already found to be harmful. As a resident living in [REDACTED] I experience already the effect of constant speeding vehicles and high density of traffic made worse when there are road works or traffic lights on the A4. There have been several crashes along our stretch in recent years, but no action taken as a death has not resulted. There is an indication in the allocation plan of access onto Harts Hill – meaning further adverse potential rat runs through Upper Bucklebury, Chapel Row etc for access to M4 J12, J13 and the Common. These are narrow, winding roads not suitable for the volumes of traffic.

3. There is significant ambiguity around delivery of community infrastructure in terms of education and health facilities. Already existing facilities are full or over stretched so if new relevant infrastructure is built off site, yet additional car journeys will arise. There is no evidence that relevant approvals and finance is available to provide the necessary infrastructure, schools, doctors, dentists etc at an early stage, so again the Plan is unsound.

4. There are many areas of mitigation / impact / delivery / design left for Master planning process. This is unsatisfactory as already concerns exist around how WBC has sought to engage with parish councils as part of the main modifications with invites to a meeting just 7 working days before the end of the main modification's consultation. No PC councillors were permitted to attend the meeting in person, and these are people elected by the Community to point forward valid arguments on our behalf.

5. Again, I bring to your attention the significant concern over potential harm to biodiversity resulting from development of the site. Bucklebury PC proved that ecology surveys and evidence base were incorrect and outdated to support 1,500 dwellings. No updates have been undertaken to support an increase in dwellings or even for any development. I must ask, why not, and thus again the Plan is unsound. There will be significant impact on the setting of the National Landscape (AONB as was) as a result of increase in dwellings. Again there is a lack of update to assessment of impacts in the Sustainability Appraisal as a result of the increase in dwellings.

For the numerous comments made above I would ask WBC to reconsider the Modified Plan and take account of the representations made.

Jennifer and Richard Ainsworth,

