

Dear TVBC Planning,

**Reference: Local Draft Plan - Parish of Upper Clatford**

Thank-you for allowing me the opportunity to read and respond to the proposed new draft local plan. I welcome this plan however feel that there are a few adjustments that should be made going forward which I'd like to raise with you.

**I question the Tier 3 category, surely we should be in Tier 4? We should not be linked with Goodworth Clatford.**

My first comment is to question the Tier 3 category we have been placed in. I believe we should be re-categorised as Tier 4. I don't believe we should be linked to the 'very separate' Parish of Goodworth Clatford. I have lived with my husband in Upper Clatford for many years and have brought up two sons here so I feel qualified in making my comments below:

**Access:** There is no pathway between our two parishes, the road is a dangerous, bendy and narrow, rural single track road with a soggy ditch runny along one side with nowhere to avoid speedy (despite its 40 mph limit) traffic. I don't consider the road to be safe for pedestrians or cyclists and I understand this is also the rationale behind providing the school bus. I can't even begin to imagine how young families particularly those with pushchairs and prams or wheelchair users could be expected to walk/wheel to Goodworth Clatford. My sons never walked or cycled to Goodworth Clatford, instead I always opted to drive due these safety concerns.

Even as a driver, I generally choose not to use this route as it's always tricky to safely pass road cyclists due to the width of and the inability to see oncoming traffic due to the bends in the road. For these reasons I don't see how we can possibly be linked to Goodworth Clatford in the LDP, they are certainly not an accessible key facility.

**Shop:** I don't use the shop mostly down to the reasons highlighted above. These old villages were not built for cars and modern life of today. The village street is narrow and cars are usually double parked so congestion and having to constantly reverse to allow another car through is quite normal. Anna Valley residents would find getting to Goodworth Clatford even trickier as they're much further away and would also have to navigate through a narrow Upper Clatford too. It's also incredibly difficult to find any parking for the shop. During school times in particular, Goodworth Clatford is best avoided as it's usually gridlocked with school traffic.

I'm informed through running the Upper Clatford Social Media site that most residents generally feel the same, finding the shop too expensive, too difficult to get to and very limited to be of any real use, I'm also aware that the shop is struggling to remain open and its permanent closure would appear to be its likely future.

Generally for these reasons, residents of Upper Clatford do not use Goodworth Clatford facilities, it's much easier, safer and cheaper to jump in the car and use the supermarkets in Andover.

For the reasons above, I do not believe the Goodworth Clatford shop to be a viable Key Facility for the Upper Clatford Parish hence my conclusion that we should be in Tier 4.

We do have a small Farm Shop in Anna Valley catering for the more discerning clientele, it's produce is very limited and expensive. You cannot buy your cupboard essentials in there, you can't even purchase a loaf of bread. It's also under constant threat of closure. It should not be considered a Key Facility.

**Bus:** the bus service connecting us to Goodworth Clatford/Andover is too infrequent to be considered viable. Nobody could possibly use the service to reliably commute to work for example.

**Disabled/wheelchair users:** I am personally aware of two ladies in the parish who do not feel safe to venture out in their wheelchairs. One lady used to walk her small dog in the village but after an incident which shook her last year, she is now forced to employ a dog walker. Our village was simply not built to cope with the number of cars, double parking and pavement parking has become the norm which inhibits the safety of wheel chair users (and pushchairs for that matter) when one is forced to pass a parked car by walking out in to the road. The pavements in our Parish are limited and are only really for the sure footed and not suitable for the disabled and frail. Despite buses being 'disabled friendly', it's unlikely the disabled will have the confidence to even make it to the bus stop in the first place. I do not see the Bus Service as a key facility.

**School:** I don't believe this should be considered as a key asset for Upper Clatford, I couldn't even get my two sons in to the school. How will an already over subscribed village school with no parking facilities or means of pedestrian/cycle access from Upper Clatford, cope with your potential future building plans of a Tier 3 category? I reiterate the need for Upper Clatford to be placed in to Tier 4, the school is not a key facility for Upper Clatford.

**Local Gap & Green space:**

Upper Clatford Parish is a beautiful historic ancient village which should be preserved and protected for all to enjoy, I fully support the necessity in retaining the local Gap and Green Space policy. I walk my dog around the village every day, regularly chatting with people from the village and those walking in from Andover who love the escape from a busy town to the tranquility of our pretty village. Small children are often seen by the river feeding ducks with their parents. They identify the village as their own local and walkable open green space despite living in town, enjoying the benefits of fresh air, healthy exercise and everything the countryside has to offer. Everyone is cheerful and chatty walking in the village. We even have Andover Litter pickers keeping our village litter free, such is their pride and love for our village. If this should disappear, people will just use their cars to drive further out to other green spots adding to climate change and pollution.

A local gap policy will be effective in preserving our sense of identity and I'm more likely to walk in to Andover through a scenic strip of countryside benefiting a healthy living.

I feel a real sense of belonging to Upper Clatford and if the local gap should be lost and we become a suburb of Andover, I'd feel as if we'd have lost our identity as a traditional Hampshire Village. I can only liken it to Charlton, where I don't know where Charlton begins and Andover ends. The very picture of a Hampshire village is synonymous with a vision of trout filled chalk streams, thatched cottages, green space and little village pubs, this should not be lost.

Our parish is lucky to be home to beautiful ancient water meadows supporting bio-diversity which should be preserved at all costs. We are also the home to many wonderful and rare wildlife and plant species including otters, water voles, crayfish, an abundance of frogs, hedgehogs and wild orchids. Surely we should be protecting these by retaining our Green Space policy and Local Gap, we shouldn't be urbanising these areas, once gone, lost forever!

We have a stunning 12th Century Church set within the picturesque meadows, a scene that has little changed throughout the centuries which has many historical links notably one connecting us with a famous Mayflower Pilgrim 'Stephen Hopkins' who was born and baptised here and the very reason many from the USA make a pilgrimage.

**Sewerage and drainage:** my concern is for the antiquated, overused, already unable to cope, sewerage and drainage system where housing will only add to the increasing problem. We already have an issue with raw sewage pumped in to our chalk streams posing a health risk to children who for generations, have loved 'just messing around in the river'. Residents have also experienced the horror of raw sewage backing up in to their homes and gardens, blocked drains with raw sewage and tissues flooding the road and collapsed drains which has lead to tankers having to attend each day to

remove sewage from the over loaded system. These issues will require a lot of thought in identifying suitable areas for development.

**To conclude:**

Please change Upper Clatford from Tier 3 to Tier 4

Retain our Local Gap & Green Space policy

Keep our Chalk Streams pristine

Maintain our village character by careful and sympathetic development

Many thanks and kindest regards,

Julia Shah