

Dear Sir or Madam,

I note that the local plan seeks to set conditions for sustainable development over time but I feel there are a number of areas where the plan could be further enhanced. I offer the following comments therefore:

- **Tier 4 Settlement.** The draft local plan allocates Upper Clatford and Anna Valley to Tier 3. The assumption is that suitable facilities are available nearby at Goodworth Clatford. This is not the case for 2 reasons. First the road between Upper Clatford and Goodworth Clatford has no pavements and yet traffic is both fast and request. It is dangerous to walk to facilities such as the school or the village shop in those circumstances and I would not be happy about children regularly cycling the route either. Second, the bus service is infrequent and is not an easily available means of travel between the villages causing people to use their cars. I ask that the authority allocate our village to Tier 4 please.
- **Community Spirit and Local Gap.** My wife and I have lived in Upper Clatford for over 12 years and we have never been happier. The sense of community here is tangible with villagers supporting each other in a host of different ways. Our experience during the Covid 19 pandemic proved this beyond doubt. There is equally no doubt that the community spirit is under pinned by a strong sense of village identity. This identity, in turn, depends heavily on an effective Local Gap policy and I urge the authority to perpetuate the existing policy in this regard please.
- **Local Green Space Policy.** The village recently ratified its Neighbourhood Development Plan in a very positive referendum, as you will know. The plan allowed for a number of important green spaces which the authority endorsed. These green spaces provide habitats for wild life and preserve the well documented, historic landscapes for generations to come. Indeed these are the very issues emphasised in the environmental outcomes of last year's globally important COP 26. We should be doing everything in our power to maintain and enhance the green spaces and I urge the authority to do so in Local Plan 2040 please.
- **Infrastructure and Pillhill Brook.** Responding positively to the demand for new homes is something we all should embrace and Upper Clatford and Anna Valley are no exceptions. I would urge the development of housing for young families which, with creativity, could be sited within the existing development boundaries. Of course this places greater pressure on existing waste water infrastructure which should be modernised and strengthened to cope with the increased demand development will bring. Such a policy will go a long way to minimising, if not eliminating, harmful discharges of sewage into Pillhill Brook, for example. I ask the authority to include provision for these measures in the next iteration of Local Plan 2040.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen O'Connell

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