

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have read the draft Local Plan 2040 with interest, and believe it contains much to recommend it, particularly its focus on sustainability and environmental impact. However, as far as our village – Upper Clatford – is concerned, I believe that some changes to the plan would better reflect the current reality of life in the village, and our aspirations for the future.

Specifically, I note that Upper Clatford has been identified as a “tier 3” settlement, and grouped with Goodworth Clatford, Anna Valley and Red Rice. While these do have some links, they are in fact four quite distinct settlements, each with its own identity. While Goodworth Clatford has a shop and a school, these are not easily accessible from Upper Clatford, and the future of the former is currently uncertain. The road between the villages is too fast to cycle safely, and there is no footway, making it very difficult to walk as well. I therefore feel that it would be much more appropriate to classify Upper Clatford as a “tier 4” settlement, and would ask that you do this in the next draft of the plan.

Upper Clatford has a strong village identity and community, as evidenced by the annual May Fayre, and this year’s Jubilee celebrations. The newly-reopened pub serves as a centre for the community, which is quite distinct from Andover. I therefore think that preserving the Local Gap between here and Andover is integral to the village’s identity. There are also clear environmental benefits of doing this.

I hope that you will take these views into account as you continue the consultation on the Local Plan 2040.

Yours faithfully,

Thomas Acland

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