

Good Afternoon,

I have been reading up on the local plan 2040 and I am writing to share my thoughts. I feel that the general vision for the plan is positive however I do feel that there are some areas that could be improved which is why I feel the need to write this email.

We've only lived here since October 2020, and in that time feel extremely passionate about where we live and the village lifestyle that has become the "norm". The benefit of living in a village but with the added bonus of being able to walk to town via the varied countryside walks, enjoying the opportunity to be more active but to discuss the wildlife on route with my children - The kites or buzzards taking flight above our heads, the field mice scooting past in the bushes and the deer that if we are silent, come out of the woods like something from a movie – it really never gets old. The Local Gap & Local Green Space policy's combined would continue to preserve this magic for future generations, to protect species, rare habitats and historic landscapes. To preserve our villages identity, made up of the nicest people around, passionate people about the village, wildlife and plans for the future. In a world where everyone is more aware of climate change than ever, we must continue to minimise pollution and value the importance of healthy living and the benefits of fresh air, countryside and peace, in a post pandemic world .

The Pillhill Brook should be a pristine chalk stream and sewage discharge should be minimised to say the least. Before any further development is started, adequate wastewater infrastructure should be in place so we are able to protect the Brook and it's wildlife and also so the sewerage discharge can sustain the housing that is already here.

I feel we lack the 6 key facilities of a Tier 3 settlement and should at least be placed in Tier 4. The school and shop are not safely walkable, it's a fast narrow width road without paths which unfortunately means neither myself or my children are able to walk or cycle to the village/shop/parks/ school as we deem it to unsafe. I can't say the public transport is much better due to the infrequency of the service. So I don't believe we hit the criteria for Tier 3 and feel this needs to be reviewed.

Lastly, I would like to end on a personal note. For most of us the year 2020 was dreadful in many ways, but for my family it was particularly difficult. My husband was severely ill from the start of March 2020 for many, many months and after we moved here in October 2020 things very much took a turn for the worse. He spent a long time teetering on a knives edge of survival. I whilst working full time, settling 2 children into a new area/ house/ school and everything else had a mental breakdown. I don't say this lightly when I say this village, the residents, the school and most certainly the countryside saved me in a way no one will ever truly understand – other than my husband. You see, for both of us Anna Valley, Goodworth Clatford and Upper Clatford have healed us in a way which is indescribable but it is most definitely why I had to send this email.

I am sure whoever reads this the other end will only focus on the facts, my points above are valid and I stand by the them but for a lot of us there is a lot of emotional reasons behind our emails – a passion if you will, to save these little villages, their magic hidden except for those of us that are lucky enough to call it home.

Kind Regards,

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