

Dear Sirs

Comments from a resident of Upper Clatford

Our Parish Council has recently held an open evening at which, amongst other matters, they summarised to us the Draft Local Plan 2040. They asked residents to give you our comments on the Plan, both areas that we felt should be more clearly reinforced and points of particular concern to us.

Areas that should be reinforced

Our Neighbourhood Development Plan has recently been formally adopted. In this considerable emphasis was put upon the maintenance of the Local Gap between Upper Clatford and Andover. I have been a resident of Upper Clatford for 30 years and it is very important to me that the strong feeling of a village community is preserved for the future. This community feeling in my view arises significantly from the existence of the Local Gap.

In addition our parish benefits from a number of Green Spaces and areas of grazing marsh and former water meadows. These create a distinctive and positive feel. Every effort should be made to preserve these attributes. I feel that the Local Plan should be clearer in support of Local Gaps and Green Spaces.

Areas of particular concern

In our NDP we emphasised our support for an appropriate number of new builds, saying that these should be in the current developed area and not expanding into the countryside.

I believe that this will be put at significant risk if we remain in settlement area Tier 3. Having gained an understanding of how settlement tiers are assigned, I cannot understand how a village such as ours with one pub and a small farm shop can be in Tier 3 rather than Tier 4. I assume that there is a belief that we can safely share the facilities of Goodworth Clatford which has a school, a shop, a post office, garage and 2 pubs.

However there is no safe way in which we can share these facilities in practice. The 2 villages are connected by a road with no pedestrian pathways and with a highly infrequent bus service. I strongly feel that the Tier 3 settlement classification should be reconsidered.

Tom Wilson

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