Dear Sirs

The draft document for the Local Plan to 2040 creates a positive vision for the next two decades and is a great starting point.

I believe it could be improved upon further and would offer the following suggestions the inclusion of which would mean The Local Plan to 2040 could deliver even greater impact for the ongoing benefit of the Test Valley and its residents to achieve the climate change, air pollution and equality targets set so crucial for the area we live in, the UK and the whole planet

Firstly the current plan does not address the fact that walking to Goodworth Clatford from Anna Valley and Upper Clatford cannot be done safely given the complete lack of any pavements or off road foot paths. The road has many blind spots and corners with motorists routinely driving at speeds dangerous for both pedestrians and cyclists even when adhering to the speed limits in place. I am particularly concerned for children who go to school in Goodworth Clatford where if they choose the healthy option of cycling are particularly at risk. The lack of a frequent bus service between the villages discriminates against a number of less advantaged groups - the elderly, the disabled and those on low income who either cannot drive or do not have the money needed to own a car. Additionally the fact that Anna Valley and Upper Clatford lack the 6 key facilities in the villages encourages additional car journeys at a time when (quite rightly) the Local Plan 2040 is looking to reduce our reliance on motor vehicles and promote healthier means of travel.

Placing Anna Valley and Upper Clatford into tier 4 rather than the current tier 3 status would be a particularly positive for two villages which already possess a strong village community identity which would benefit from being protected and further developed as key element of The Local Plan 2040. We moved into Anna Valley in 2020 and a key part of our choosing the village was a strong vibrant community which was clearly evident. Compare this to Fair Oak which we also considered where given the scale of development taking place showed that the pretence of a local gap had been abandoned and was cited by many of the longer term residents of the area who were looking to move out as the reason they wanted to leave.

The Test Valley local gap policy looks to maintain a distinction for the villages surrounding Andover which also encourages people from the villages to walk or cycle into the town to use its facilities as you can do so using a safe clean air scenic route with all of the mindful benefits and its positive impact on well being.. The Local Gap 2040 could further promote this to make Andover an even more attractive destination as well as contributing to the achievement of air pollution and climate targets The alternative of allowing the local gap to be eroded is that residents would be encouraged to make a car journey instead and more likely to drive to Winchester, Salisbury or Newbury which would have a detrimental impact on the economy of the Test Valley which we are all keen to avoid

More houses inevitably create more traffic and greater pressure on the infrastructure of an area. For Anna Valley and Upper Clatford the Pilhill Brook has the potential to become a pristine chalk stream tributary thus preserving a particularly valuable ecological asset with its unique and fragile eco system. Both the Test Valley and the villages are already rightly proud of living in such a beautiful and prestigious landscape and already Southern Water all too frequently threaten the river with sewage discharges directly into the Pilhill Brook due to an inadequate wastewater infrastructure. The Local Plan 2040 has the opportunity to set a clear agenda to protect the environment for future generations so whilst I understand the need for future limited and sensitively managed development it would be best delivered with the parallel development of the environmental and transport infrastructures to support the protection of the habitat and village community which exist today

Yours Faithfully

Ian Greenwood

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