

After reading the Draft Local Plan 2040, published on the Test Valley Borough Council website, I am pleased to find a great deal to agree with. However, there are some decisions which I feel would benefit from further discussion and maybe improvement.

I am a resident of Anna Valley, in the Parish of Upper Clatford. I note that in the Settlement Hierarchy Assessment, Anna Valley/Upper Clatford has been grouped together with the village of Goodworth Clatford. I find this an unrealistic pairing. As a family living in Anna Valley, a trip to the Village shop in Goodworth Clatford is not a convenient scenario. Whilst as a family we enjoy walking, it certainly wouldn't be a trip we would make to patronise the Goodworth Clatford village shop. Anna Valley and Upper Clatford does not have its own school and Clatford Primary School is not a safe or viable walk for the children of our Parish. There is no footpath between the villages of Upper and Goodworth Clatford, and the road joining the two is narrow with fast traveling traffic. I would not allow my children to walk to the shop on their own.

Another subject I would like to question is the availability of public transport. Whilst I agree that there may be a 'daily service' to a nearby town, I would not classify the provision in our village as 'frequent' or convenient. In particular, the public transport provision would not be a reasonable solution to visiting Goodworth Clatford to 'share' the facilities. I believe the Parish of Upper Clatford should be classified as a Tier 4 settlement to more accurately reflect the actual facilities available in the village.

Whilst Upper and Goodworth Clatford share names, there are two clear communities in the villages. Living in the Upper Clatford Parish, I feel there is a clear sense of community where I live and that is partly due to the fact that we are not joined to other settlements. We are surrounded by green spaces and the current 'Local Gap Policy' helps to maintain the village identity.

As a family, we enjoy the surrounding local green spaces, and enjoy walking and cycling with our children to the amenities of Andover, which I feel we would be less likely to do if the current green spaces were lost. I feel it is incredibly important for children in the Test Valley to grow up with safe access to green spaces, fresh air, and an environment which encourages habitats for nature and wildlife to exist and thrive.

One of the major habitats in the Anna Valley and Upper Clatford Parish is the Pillhill Brook, a tributary of The Anton and River Test chalk streams. This important habitat is currently under threat, with over pumping from the nearby Southern Water sewage and waste water system. Whilst building of new homes, sensitively performed, are required for future generations, the local area would need to be able to cope with any planned areas for development, including any required upgrades of water or waste infrastructure, to protect these valuable habitats.

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