

TVBC Local Plan 2040

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above local plan. I am responding as a local resident who has lived within the Borough, specifically to the south of Andover, since 1997.

Overview.

I fully support the general thrust of the proposed plan but believe that it requires to be adjusted to reflect the changing circumstances in the local area as well as the country as a whole. In particular, it needs to reflect the impact of the exit from the European Union – the damage to trade and industry as a result of the move outside of the single market, and the adverse impact on immigration, inflation, the cost of living and the associated reduction in population growth. It also needs to reflect the likely long term impact of COVID on employment practices including the reduction in the number of commuters, particularly to London, as well as those employed locally in service industries.

The full impact of these changes on the communities within Test Valley are as yet unclear but it is likely that the overall result will be contrary to the expressed vision within the current draft as shown on page 18 in 2.21. For example, it is unlikely that Andover, as a market town, will thrive – local industry and job opportunities are likely to decline and the present poor footfall in the town centre will decrease further. Furthermore, whilst the population of the area is predicted to rise, this will continue to be a mainly aging population; the birth rate will continue to be low (and may well indeed decline further) as families attempt to manage on reduced incomes and as the number of those economically active will also reduce. As a result, TVBC needs to revise the vision, as reflected in the plan, to reflect this emerging reality on the Borough's economy, and encourage local services and retailers to reflect the retail and entertainment needs of an older population

Test Valley Sustainable Spatial Strategy.

I endorse the thrust of the proposed spatial strategy. set out on page 29, particularly developments which promote active travel as well as local infrastructure which support clean travel. The lack of public transport provision to the villages south of Andover, and the lack of cycleways and paved footpaths between built up areas, has the effect of making private vehicles the prime means for local commuting and domestic travel.

In the south of the Borough, there have been a number of initiatives to develop cycle paths alongside key local routes such as the A3057 in Timsbury and the A27 (Southampton Road) south of the Romsey bypass. There is a similar, currently unmet need for a continuous cycle way from Little Ann to the Burghclere Down roundabout (junction Salisbury Road, Floral Way and Leyton Way). This would enable young people attending schools in the most southerly part of Andover may have a safe and convenient means of travel from Anna Valley and Abbots Ann. This will also have the benefit of supporting active and sustainable modes of transport, whilst reducing the impact of travel by private car (page 25) thereby supporting a more active lifestyle and enhancing health and wellbeing (page 23).

I also have concerns about the Settlement Assessment outcomes. It appears than TVBC has grouped Anna Valley, Goodworth Clatford and Upper Clatford as a single community within Tier. 3 They are however, two distinct areas and not at all integrated. For example, the nearest grocery shop and post office for residents of Anna Valley and Upper Clatford is at the Hexagon on Salisbury Road, rather than Goodworth Clatford. The Hexagon can be reached by well-maintained footpaths which can be used by middle aged and younger people either on foot or on bicycles. It is however not

accessible to older or less mobile people owing to the distance and incline-of the Balksbury Hill approach. Similarly Upper Clatford can only be accessed by a relatively narrow rather fast road with no pavements, even as a relatively fit 68 year old, I feel somewhat anxious when walking or cycling between the villages. There is also virtually no public transport between Anna Valley / Upper Clatford and Goodworth Clatford; the local 15 service providing just a single return journey per day between the villages. I believe therefore that Anna Valley and Upper Clatford should be re-designated as a Tier 4 community, as should Goodworth Clatford.

Design and housing.

I fully support the aim of delivering safe, attractive, integrated and well-designed environments that take account of and respond positively to local context and character (page 23). This reflects the needs of our local community as articulated in the Upper Clatford Neighbourhood Development Plan (UCNDP) which was endorsed by a local referendum in 2021.

The villagers wish to maintain the broadly rural nature of the area, without major development between Upper Clatford and the southern boundary of the town of Andover which runs along the northern side of the A303 dual carriage way.

The loss of this gap would adversely impact on the sense of community and create ribbon development along the primary access route which has sadly blighted many areas of rural Hampshire. Our community also wishes to maintain and , where possible improve, access to local green spaces and enhance bio-diversity and wildlife in the area. We therefore welcome TVBC plan to purchase farmland south of Bury Hill, and plant additional trees and suitable woodland plants, providing access to green for other local people especially those in Andover.

The 2040 Plan should also encourage such initiatives as the recently identified and agreed Nature Conservation Area along the Pillhill Brook. This, together with the four Green spaces, enhance and protect the chalk streams which are a major feature of our neighbourhood; similar schemes would be beneficial to other communities and these should be included in the 2040 plan.

The majority of villagers welcome suitable development within our community. Indeed the UCNDP identified that, notwithstanding the current decline in population within the village, there is a specific need to build a limited number of smaller houses in the next 10 years. These would enable young couples and older people to remain in the village, retaining a balanced community, rather than be forced to move outside of the parish. Such houses should however be built within the environs of existing residential areas, in a style which reflects the immediate surrounding properties. Furthermore, any development should be accompanied by suitable upgrades to the local sewerage system which is already under pressure by developments in other communities.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge the receipt of my input

Stephen Pope

[REDACTED]

