

Good day,

The February 2022 Draft Local Plan offers a coherent set of ambitions, and invites comment/consultation. It reflects a period of careful interaction with stakeholders/communities/individuals. It will no doubt be subject to further iteration in order to draw together the responses.

I would offer some comments of my own (aware that my Parish Council have been engaged from the outset, and have sought and included the views of parishioners as they framed their inputs).

- The Local Gap (para 4.41 at p.43 of the Plan): there is insufficient emphasis here. Separation of communities/functions/settings is needed for them to retain their identity and characteristics. The text of the paragraph gives no real definition to the term: a Local Gap should be a part of the big picture, and given meaning. Only then can a Plan be developed that responds to needs of both developers and citizens. In the case of the Gap currently noted as existing between Upper Clatford and the A303/Andover, it also serves as a conduit for some of the recognised essential “connectivity quantity and quality of ecological and green infrastructure networks” (at p.22). Also – at para 2.38 – “The built environment and rich heritage within our towns, villages and rural areas is of a high quality, often enhanced by the attractive and varied wider landscape setting”: this is adequate definition of the need for Gaps.
- Settlement Hierarchy (para 3.21 at p.30): I am not convinced that the grouping of Goodworth Clatford, Upper Clatford, Anna Valley, and Red Rice is really justified, and I cannot see how development in one will stimulate/support services in another. Increase in services in one (for example bus service), on the other hand, might support development in another. But the basic grouping is the real problem: the listing of shared facilities (at Table 11 p.20 of the Settlement Hierarchy Assessment) notes the ‘linear nature of the villages’ which is said to ‘flow from one into the other’. The edge of Anna Valley must be at least three miles from the eastern extremity of Goodworth Clatford. And the sharing of facilities is rendered difficult by the lack of safe pedestrian (and cycle) travel between Upper and Goodworth Clatford. In the same vein, although there is a shared school (access to which suffers from the same road dangers), there are other schools closer to Anna Valley than the Goodworth one – but these are equally subject to traffic hazards for pedestrian access. In terms of tier allocation, therefore, I suggest that the Clatfords be separated and further reviewed for hierarchy levels: with no shop, school, or Post Office, Upper Clatford/Anna Valley/Red Rice seem to be candidate for Tier 4.

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