

The **proposal that new development should be spread over rural settlements is fundamentally flawed**, as it is contrary to national and local policies on improving the environment and cutting carbon emissions as stated in your Stage 1 draft for the LP40. No mention is made of **brownfield sites and derelict land**, which should be the first priority for new development. These sites should be targeted for redevelopment and conversion to provide some of the proposed new housing. We have a housing market which is largely dictated and controlled by commercial businesses, which are not interested in providing what is needed and are only seeking to maximize profitability. Planning authorities need to take the lead in providing a strong community led framework for new development in their local policies and consult local communities as to where new development should take place. The overwhelming support for the **Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan** reflects the wishes of the community and must be the basis for any development consideration.

Test Valley is a beautiful rural area with many small villages and settlements of significant historical value. These are highly sought after and prized by much of the population. **(Goodworth Clatford was designated a Conservation Area by Test Valley in 2010.)** The **Strategic Gaps** between these settlements are therefore of primary importance and value to the area to avoid the destruction of villages by over urbanisation. Combining these settlements can only result in a deterioration of the environment and the loss of village character. The village curtilages set up in 2006 need to be respected and maintained. The sites put forward by remote land owners in the SHELAA are outside the settlement boundary and would require local approval for any development to be considered as appropriate in accordance with TVBC objectives. In addition they are largely farm land which is needed to be productive to aid the green agenda and more self-sufficiency, by cutting transport demands following such events as Brexit and the war in Ukraine. Note the latest report from the UN on climate change that action must be taken **now**.

The settlement hierarchy of Tiers 1 to 5 has not been properly thought through and is seriously flawed again. Settlements have been designated a tier due to the presence of 6 factors, (shop/school/village hall/pub/playing field/church). These are **not** the most appropriate criteria to assess the suitability of a settlement for development, as they are not what make a settlement viable.

1. Village shops are not viable without local grants and volunteers. Many struggle to stay open. The range of goods available is limited and much of their trade is for odd items needed that were missed on other shopping trips. Quite often even these items are not available. This is not a primary consideration. Goodworth Clatford village shop suffers from these difficulties and may not still exist for the LP40 period.
2. Village schools are generally very popular and oversubscribed, with no means of expansion due to site constraints.
3. Village halls are a valuable facility for some activities.
4. Pubs are a valuable facility, but often struggle to make ends meet and many are closing.

