

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this email with regard to the Local Plan 2040, in respect of the changes this could bring to the quiet and quaint village of Upper Clatford.

I have reviewed the plan and can see that there are several areas across Upper Clatford which could see the development of upward of 100 houses in many of our green spaces.

First and foremost, the village roads are already heaving with vehicles which make it difficult to negotiate through the village, especially during school pick up and drop of times. Not only would an increase in vehicular traffic make the village more congested, but this also places those more vulnerable road users at greater risk – particularly for children and the elderly. In addition, what we have in terms of local amenities in the village itself is slim, with those having either limited or no parking at all. Travelling to other villages, Goodworth Clatford for example, is possible by foot but require walking on an unlit road with the traffic travelling at 40 mph (or more). Even as someone who is aware of the dangers of traffic, I have concerns with regard to the safety of this route and would not suggest it is suitable for those more vulnerable road users. In order to allow safe access to these amenities, pedestrian and cycle path infrastructure needs to be delivered before neighbouring villages can truly be considered accessible to all within our community.

There is also a significant environmental impact in this plan. First and foremost is the clearing of green spaces should these areas be made available for development. Once these green spaces are lost, the planting of more trees elsewhere to make way for the loss of established ecosystems is no solution. The “Local Gap” and other surround green spaces not only preserve our village identity but protects and encourages biodiversity in the area. With fewer and fewer green spaces, it is crucial to protect these areas of land for the wildlife it supports. We regularly walk to Andover via the ‘Local Gap’ and have encountered such a range of flora and fauna which we so often become mesmerised by. The thought of losing or changing this green area seems short-sighted and against the current international drive to protect wild spaces for our future generations.

In addition, not only will the loss of these green spaces have a detrimental effect on the wildlife in the area, but will increase both the noise and air pollution in the area. The ‘Local Gap’ provides a buffer from the traffic on the A303 and a reduction of this likely hamper the desirability of the area and any new premises which may be built within that area. Another consideration is in relation to the recent sewage discharges within Pillhill Brook which should be few and far between, something which, without the necessary infrastructure being put in place prior to any development, will occur more often to the detriment of our clear waterways.

Overall, it is my concern that our village has inappropriately been placed in Tier 3 and, given the lack of public infrastructure, the village will struggle to support an increase of residents without significant investment and should therefore be placed in Tier 4.

Whilst I appreciate there is a demand for more homes, I do not feel it should be at the sacrifice of our green spaces which house a plethora of flora and fauna which, to me, make this little village our home.

I hope that the above is taken into consideration when deciding on the future of my home.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Bailey

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