Ref: Test Valley Draft Local Plan 2040

Page 75 – Rural Housing 5.33, states 'National planning policy provides for Rural Expansion Sites (RES) for the development of affordable housing where this would not be otherwise permitted', it also states 'Councils can consider whether an element of market housing should also be included'.

Whilst affordable housing is very important, this RES policy must be used with caution. It should be acknowledged that traffic is a problem in many rural villages with narrow roads, often few or no pavements and limited off-road parking. If affordable housing developments are identified as needed they should, therefore, be limited in size to avoid exacerbating existing traffic problems; this is particularly relevant in villages that have amenities (e.g., schools, community halls and recreational facilities) that attract an influx of vehicles from outside the village at certain times. Market housing should not be included In these developments to avoid unwanted expansion of the settlement boundary.

Bernard Hancke
Judith Hancke

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