

Good morning,

I am writing regarding the local plan and whilst there are some points I agree with, I feel there are other points that need further consideration.

My family and I live in Anna Valley. We enjoy being in the countryside, taking care of the environment and doing our best to be good neighbours and support local businesses. Whilst we have walked and cycled to Goodworth Clatford, we are always extremely mindful of the time of day we travel to ensure it is the quietest and we will all be kept safe. There isn't a safe and accessible pathway to enable us to walk the 4 mile round trip to access the village shop and post office. The route, due to the fast cars, lack of pavements, insufficient lighting and remoteness is something we would not allow our children to walk independently especially during autumn and winter months when visibility is substantially reduced. Such a route would be inaccessible to anyone with a physical impairment. The speed of cars and narrow lanes would also be a concern for our children to cycle independently. The number of children utilising the bus to Goodworth Clatford Primary highlights the inaccessibility of the route from Anna Valley to Goodworth Clatford.

Whilst we live near a bus stop, the buses run so infrequently, they are not a viable option to use to travel to Goodworth Clatford. As a busy, working parent, I am not available during the day to be able to access these infrequent buses. The irregularity of these buses does not support families with very young children. Without a safe route nor a reliable, accessible bus service, the residents of Anna Valley cannot rely on the services in Goodworth Clatford and therefore should be placed in tier 4 within the local plan.

My family and I pride ourselves on being part of the village community; my husband and son regularly attend the conservation group and take care and pride in the environment. We ensure we are neighbourly and look out for others in the community. We enjoy the sense of freedom local walks and being in the countryside allows us and this has greatly supported mine and my children's mental health throughout the pandemic. A Local Gap policy will continue this sense of identity, will give myself and others the support with our mental wellbeing that is essential to live successfully, achieve and contribute to society.

The wildlife and nature within Anna Valley and Upper Clatford is incredible and this beauty needs to be preserved for future generations. Everyone needs the opportunity to access these green spaces, to be able to unwind, to escape the pollution and appreciate cleaner air for their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

It is for the reasons listed above that I am strongly in support of Anna Valley and Upper Clatford being categorised within Tier 4 and a Local Gap policy being put in place.

Kind regards

Sarah Hawkins

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