

From: [REDACTED]
To: [PlanningPolicy](#)
Subject: Object to Proposed Submission (Reg 19) West Berkshire Local Plan Review 2022-2039
Date: 21 February 2023 16:33:30

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I wish to strongly OBJECT to the building of an unnecessarily large number of houses on what is currently open space providing a clear border between Upper Bucklebury and Thatcham.

- Thatcham has already grown beyond its sustainable limits, the open ended “at least 1500” new homes will leave the site open to as many crammed in houses as developers wish to add. The more housing is crammed in, the more neighbourhood arguments will happen. Housing estates should be somewhere people want to live for along time, not tolerate until they can get something better, which this appears it will be.
- Traffic in the area is already at a standstill around school times, with no senior school proposed for the site more children will get driven to schools in outlying areas. More people will be trying to get to Newbury for work. Despite what the council want, public transport to Newbury is rarely used by office workers.
- The dark skies of Upper Bucklebury are a treasure that should not be lost. The “Aurora Thatcham” is already a sulphur yellow glow on the horizon, which thousands more street lights, even the less light polluting ones will just add to.
- A small collection of trees is not a “country park” no matter how much marketing speak is applied to said trees, they will not make up for the destruction of the open landscape.
- If a roundabout onto Harts Hill road from the oversized development goes ahead. The road from Upper Bucklebury to Bradfield South End will turn into a council made rat run to the M4.
- Did the models for traffic, flooding and ecological impact account for homeowners adding in such things as plastic grass in the back and hard standings where their front garden used to be? Or using their cars for quick runs into Thatcham to get the shopping or takeaway? Did the models allow for a large percentage of housing extending with glass roofed buildings to add to the light pollution and again adding more solid foundations to what is currently fields.

I see no benefit to the area for this mess of “shove them in and pack them tight” housing.

Elaine Lovell

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