

Ann Henman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

To SODC Councillors

Re: SODC Local Plan 2011-2034

Dear Councillor,

Along with many others, I am appalled at the Inspector's final report on the SODC Local Plan. I watched the hearing, was completely impressed with what was said about the infeasibility of the plan, could see that the people who spoke came from a wide spectrum of backgrounds, and felt it was completely evident that the plan did not follow the rules set out for such a plan to be authentic. Inspector Bore's response to what was presented is a travesty of responsible decision making based on written guidelines.

Please continue to vote against the plan. I, and many others will be with you, and will be willing to do whatever we can to stop the plan going forward. I spoke against the plan at SODC meetings a year ago and would be willing to speak again if you, or anyone else, thought I had anything to add or say.

My main arguments are:

- 1) The City of Oxford needs to create housing inside its city limits in order to be viable now and in the years ahead. As of this year (and Covid), political and business leaders are saying City Centres can and must survive, but not as they have been; shops will be less, places for people to live and services for these people need to be brought in. Oxford City can and should be vibrant with life based on a full spectrum of age and economics, rather than on the limited spectrum of tourism, shopping, and student housing.
- 2) The figures used for the exceptional need to take land out of the Green Belt in order to meet Oxford City's unmet housing need were not factual. There is space within city boundaries to meet the City's needs. City housing must include social and truly affordable housing to meet the needs of a wide range of people, including key workers, people just starting out with their own housing, people down-sizing, as well as those with special needs. Vibrant cities need diverse populations drawn from all ages and backgrounds.
- 3) The government has said it wants to reduce emissions, plant trees, produce greener housing. Building executive homes and the accompanying roadways on land taken out of the Green Belt does not go along with these objectives. Flooding is and will be a big issue. Concreting more and more land flies in the face of common sense.
- 4) It is time for the people of Oxford, and beyond, to call things for what they are: the SODC local plan for 2011-2034 is a plan devised by what is essentially a property lobby (land owners, property developers, and investors who are out to make a short-term financial profit at the expense of giving away the future. Sadly, Oxford Colleges and many of our pension funds are included in this amalgamation. . All of us must re-look at our choices and look at the ramifications these choices produce. An excellent book on this is *The Property Lobby: The Hidden Reality Behind The Housing Crisis* by Bob Colenutt.
- 5) "Build build build" is not going to produce the future the people of the UK, and Oxford in particular, deserve. It is time to look at what is being allowed to happen and to say that "the emperor has no clothes". People know what needs to be done but are being silenced by those organised and given authority by a system which sees financial greed as the bottom line for success.

Please do not give in. We are with you. Ann Henman [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]