

From: MGM MGM [REDACTED]  
Sent: 06 December 2020 12:44  
To: Cooper, Sue [REDACTED]  
Subject: REJECT THE LP2035 PLAN!

Dear Councilor,

We are writing as a matter of urgency to ask to save our green spaces, protect our habitat, bio-diversity, and mental well being of our community.

Part of the plan is to build 150 houses on Bayswater Farm field (GREEN BELT!) - [REDACTED] with [REDACTED] co-developer [REDACTED] at the back of the Sandhills, Headington estate. This plan wants to use Sandhills as a RAT RUN through to the 150 houses and Barton estate.

Sandhills does not have the roads or the infrastructure; this will affect the Bridle Way, which is used by schoolchildren and parents to go to the local Sandhills School. This proposed new estate will potentially bring 300 plus cars into Sandhills, and there will be motorists using Sandhills instead of the Green Road Roundabout to get to Barton.

This will be a total disaster for the residents of Sandhills and bio-diversity; The Oxfordshire County Council has issued a statement arguing that it is "unsound"

Everyone sympathises with you over the terrible situation that the Secretary of State MHCLG has created by putting you under pressure to adopt LP2035. But here are some factors to consider as you contemplate a fateful vote.

- The plan is damaging for South Oxfordshire for all the reasons highlighted by thousands of respondents in consultations since 2018. The numbers of submissions bear witness to how engaged local people have been in the planning process. If you vote to adopt a plan that your constituents hate, they will feel betrayed and give up on local representatives who don't follow through on their campaign promises.
- Nor is there any guarantee that the central government will cease to meddle in the council's decision-making: as MHCLG's planning reforms reveal, it is determined to strip local authorities of any real control over spatial strategy.
- If you vote against it, yes, the 'holding' order will probably be prolonged and the council will continue to have no direct control over the plan. But that has been the status quo for the past year. So why not look to the future and consider how the situation might turn in the favour of SODC councilors?
- If you vote it down, you will be in a better position at future elections (even if there is a unitary council) by having stood up now for local democracy than by caving into an authoritarian minister. If any of you are standing in the May elections for Oxfordshire County Council, local people will be more likely to campaign for you.
- Mr. Jenrick will be in a quandary about appointing plan 'executors'.
  1. If it is the County Council, its resources will be so sorely stretched that it may affect service delivery. Not a good prospect for the current leadership at the upcoming election.
  2. If it is a neighbouring council, e.g. Vale, that would not be bad as the two councils are closely linked and could work together for the best possible outcomes as planning applications pour in.
  3. If it is MHCLG or some kind of commission, the bureaucrats will have to rely on the council, in any event, to get things done on the ground.
- Would Mr. Jenrick subject councilors to financial penalties if they vote down the plan? Think about the political fallout if he tried to seize the assets of councilors who volunteer their time for public service. There would be outrage from all quarters. Not a good look for the Secretary of State or the Prime Minister. The PM does not like bad publicity.
- Finally there is bound to be a legal challenge over LP2035. If you reject it, the judicial review will not be brought against the council but the Secretary of State: let him take the heat.
- So you have nothing to lose and everything to gain by voting the plan down. As elected custodians of the Green Belt, I am asking you to stop this plan before it is too late.

Yours faithfully

**Michael & Kathleen McCarthy**

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]