

Subject: SODC Local Plan - plea

Dear Councillor

You will recall, you were elected in May 2019 on a platform of rejecting the then current Local Plan because of the density of building involved and level of encroachment on the Green Belt. During the consultation period between September and November, and before, you will have received numerous submissions from local people (including us, protesting STRAT 13) who would be adversely and permanently affected, calling on you to renew your opposition on environmental, ecological, logistical, historical, health, safety, scientific and other grounds.

While we appreciate the difficult position you have been put in by the government and by Robert Jenrick in particular, we would ask you not to acquiesce in allowing this deeply damaging development to take place, but to be true to your election promises and to fight it to the end. The new plan, LP 2035, differs little from the earlier LP 2034, as of course you will be aware, and has certainly failed to address many major concerns, to which the Inspector, Jonathan Bore, would seem to have responded with indifference, using obfuscation to conceal true intent.

I shall draw your attention to one such instance, which if it goes ahead, will affect us residents of Sandhills, on the City boundary, for the worse and forever. That is, the plan to use Burdell Avenue as an access road to the new development on Bayswater Farm Field (itself an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which has hitherto been spared development for precisely this reason). All the Inspector can say on this is 'The smaller Sandhills part of the allocation is capable of being accessed through the existing road network'. Yes, but only if you're prepared to turn our once quiet garden suburb into a noisy, pollution-filled rat-run.

Of course, this is perhaps rather an issue that Highways should be addressing as a County responsibility. However, this does not diminish the role that councillors like yourself can play in taking a public stand against the development by rejecting it whatever the consequences. That way, you would continue to make good on your election pledge and would still earn the respect and support of your electorate. We appeal to you to make this stand on all our behalves.

Yours sincerely

Thank you.

Michael and Jana Bek