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From: Zafra Cooper [REDACTED] >

Sent: Thursday, December 10, 2020 12:55:13 AM

To: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject: Vote on Local plan

Dear Councillor

We are writing to urge you to vote against the SODC Local plan at the council meeting on Thursday 10th December. In our view it is essential that you vote against this plan rather than abstain so as to indicate clearly that you are prepared to take a principled position on this important issue concerning the future of our local environment.

Our concerns are as follows:

- Destruction of the greenbelt. The plan involves extensive building on greenbelt land that has for many years been carefully preserved for the benefit of the whole community. To do so now when there is likely to be a major re-evaluation of working patterns with more people working from home at least some of the time seems particularly perverse.
- Environmental impact. At a time when the entire world is increasingly aware of the harmful, if not catastrophic effects, of climate change, planning developments which threaten SSSI s and are likely to increase air pollution seem particularly ill advised. Air quality in Oxford is already a major concern.
- Transport infrastructure. Traffic in and around Oxford is already at near crisis level. Any further development without major road construction is likely to lead to further congestion and of course pollution.

We gather that there has been some suggestion of threats to local councillors if they continue to oppose the Local Plan. This constitutes an authoritarian and undemocratic challenge to the integrity of good governance and local representation. We urge you to resist the bullying strategy of central government and to stand by the mandate on which you were elected. As our representatives we rely on you to oppose this government driven initiative and work to defend the local environment for the benefit of local communities.

Yours sincerely

David Charles and Zafra Cooper

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