

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2020 10:42
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Comments on the local plan PS36

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To whoever reads this,

I have a comment to submit in response to the proposed local plan for a new "garden village" between Berkeley and Sharpness. I understand that my views count for nothing, and that those that hold the levers of power will continue to dominate the policies that affect us all. I can, at least, submit my subdued cry of anguish into the void.

I can't find the words to express how angry I feel that a development of this size and in this area is being contemplated at this time.

The world is undergoing an environmental catastrophe on an existential scale for hundreds of thousands of species. To propose initiating a round of destruction in our own district by creating yet another town is perplexing and frightening.

The plan is anachronistic and needs to be rethought. At the beginning of a new decade, it is now time to take into account where we stand as a species and a society, and how exactly we end the cycle of destruction that we are unwittingly inflicting on the flora and fauna with which we share the planet.

It seems evident that we have only a vague idea of the effects that even the smallest of our actions have on the myriad ecosystems upon which diverse lives (from the smallest microorganism to the largest tree) depend. We need to call a halt on our destruction to give us time to reconsider.

Nobody knows what will be destroyed by building this new town. It may be that the farmland might be better redeployed in a less destructive manner by considering patient rewilding of the area to allow it to redevelop its own ecosystems over time.

As human societies continue to urbanise, it seems right to build homes and workspaces in more centralised, denser communities. We need cities where people can live, work and socialise in a sustainable way without impacting other ecosystems.

The type of construction proposed by this plan is a destruction of existing habitats. It is a short-sighted disavowal of what those areas of land might become if the plan were to address primarily ecological solutions rather than financial ones.

The idea of building new towns on green spaces at a distance from larger conurbations seems a hopelessly out-dated concept. Hopefully, the tide is turning against these dinosaur vanity projects as societies wake up to just how destructive they are.

Please don't allow ideological hubris to prevail. Step back and reassess the options.

Yours faithfully,

