

Dear Sir/Madam

Having become aware of the draft Local Plan we would like to make some suggestions to be included, which we believe are important to many people.

1. It would be more appropriate to categorise the Anna Valley/Red Rice/Upper Clatford area as Tier 4 as it does not have the 6 key facilities of a Tier 3 settlement. I understand that the facilities at Goodworth Clatford have been attributed to the area, but unfortunately these cannot be practically made use of. It is not safe to walk or cycle into Goodworth Clatford due to the narrow, busy road with sharp bends and fast traffic. There is no pavement, little verge to jump onto when traffic approaches, and no street lighting.
2. Access by bus is not a practical option as the bus service is very limited indeed.
2. In my view, the Local Plan should include a Local Gap policy as seen in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. This allows us to feel and act as a village community where people have a connection to each other and so are ready to help and befriend each other. We recently moved to the village and were surprised and delighted by how friendly and united the villagers are. There is a real sense of belonging to the village and this is particularly important for the many residents who live alone.
3. In our view, the Local Plan should include a Local Green Space policy as seen in the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The green spaces help to protect the wildlife and eco diversity, as well as offsetting some of the pollution from the A303. In our local green spaces we have been delighted to see threatened species such as otters, kingfishers, bats and water voles. We have also heard tawny owls and skylarks.
4. As well as the benefit to the wildlife there is a huge benefit to humans too as seeing green space, and the flora and fauna it contains, is so uplifting. It improves mood and gives a feeling of well being - exactly what is being encouraged in these days where mental health is taken seriously.
5. The green spaces also improve physical wellbeing. We are happy to walk through the pleasant green spaces to go into Andover as the walk is so enjoyable. When my dogs need a trip to the vet in Andover I walk them there rather than taking the car. Of course, as well as being better for body and mind, this also has the benefit of helping to reduce pollution.
4. In our view, any future development should also be accompanied by water treatment infrastructure to protect the chalk streams which are important to many businesses and enjoyed by all. Again this links back to protecting the wildlife that thrives in them and then the added benefits to the community of seeing that wildlife.

Many thanks for your attention in this matter.

Yours faithfully

Neil & Imogen Parsons

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