

# *Cherwell* *Local Plan*



**NOVEMBER**  
**1996**

## NEW DWELLINGS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

H18 PLANNING PERMISSION WILL ONLY BE GRANTED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DWELLINGS BEYOND THE BUILT-UP LIMITS OF SETTLEMENTS OTHER THAN THOSE IDENTIFIED UNDER POLICY H1 WHEN

(i) IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR AGRICULTURE OR OTHER EXISTING UNDERTAKINGS, OR

POLICY H6; AND

(ii) THE PROPOSAL MEETS THE CRITERIA SET OUT IN

(iii) THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT CONFLICT WITH OTHER POLICIES IN THIS PLAN.

2.76 Policy H18 is a continuation of past policies and reflects Central Government advice. Its intention is to ensure that the countryside is protected from sporadic development whilst, at the same time, recognising the legitimate needs of agriculture and forestry.

2.77 'Essential' will normally be interpreted as a proven necessity for a worker to live at or very close to the site of their work ie it is necessary for the proper functioning of the enterprise for a new dwelling to be occupied by a worker in connection with it. Sufficient details should be provided to enable an assessment of the size, nature and viability of the existing or proposed enterprise together with details of the number and tenure of existing dwellings related to the holding or estate. Where there is any doubt that a dwelling is required for the proper functioning of an enterprise, or where a new business is being proposed, it will be necessary to supply adequate financial information to demonstrate that the proposals are sound. In particular the Council will wish to be satisfied that such need as might exist could not be reasonably secured in a nearby settlement.

2.78 When an essential need has been proven, the Council may still resist the erection of a new dwelling if the opportunity to convert an existing redundant building in compliance with policy H19, H20 or H21 exists on the land. The erection of a new dwelling will normally be expected to be of traditional design and be closely related to existing buildings in the interest of protecting the appearance and open character of the countryside.

2.79 All planning permissions for agricultural dwellings outside the villages will contain an agricultural-occupancy condition restricting their occupation to a person or

persons employed or last employed in agriculture and their immediate dependants. Such conditions will only be removed if it can clearly be demonstrated that there is no need for an agricultural worker's dwelling in the locality. The requirements of any given farm holding will be considered secondary to the needs of agriculture as a whole.

2.80 Policy H18 will also apply to locations where there are already a few scattered buildings.

**C8 SPORADIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE OPEN COUNTRYSIDE INCLUDING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VICINITY OF MOTORWAY OR MAJOR ROAD JUNCTIONS WILL GENERALLY BE RESISTED.**

9.12 Sporadic development in the countryside must be resisted if its attractive, open, rural character is to be maintained.

9.13 Policy C8 will apply to all new development proposals beyond the built-up limits of settlements including areas in the vicinity of motorway or major road developments but will be reasonably applied to accommodate the needs of agriculture. There is increasing pressure for development in the open countryside particularly in the vicinity of motorway junctions. The Council will resist such pressures and will where practicable direct development to suitable sites at Banbury or Bicester.

**C27 DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS IN VILLAGES WILL BE EXPECTED TO RESPECT THEIR HISTORIC SETTLEMENT PATTERN.**

9.64 The settlement pattern of a village can be as important to its character as the buildings. Proposals which would result in the obliteration of part of an historic plan form or fail to respect the traditional settlement pattern will be considered contrary to policy and will be resisted.

9.65 Particular attention will be paid to policy C27 within the existing and proposed conservation areas where the character of the settlement is particularly sensitive to change.

**C28 CONTROL WILL BE EXERCISED OVER ALL NEW DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING CONVERSIONS AND EXTENSIONS, TO ENSURE THAT THE STANDARDS OF LAYOUT, DESIGN AND EXTERNAL APPEARANCE, INCLUDING THE CHOICE OF EXTERNAL-FINISH MATERIALS, ARE SYMPATHETIC TO THE CHARACTER OF THE URBAN OR RURAL CONTEXT OF THAT DEVELOPMENT. IN SENSITIVE AREAS SUCH AS CONSERVATION AREAS, THE AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY AND AREAS OF HIGH LANDSCAPE VALUE, DEVELOPMENT WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE OF A HIGH STANDARD AND THE USE OF TRADITIONAL LOCAL BUILDING MATERIALS WILL NORMALLY BE REQUIRED.**

**C30 DESIGN CONTROL WILL BE EXERCISED TO ENSURE:**

i) THAT NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE APPEARANCE, CHARACTER, LAYOUT, SCALE AND DENSITY OF EXISTING DWELLINGS IN THE VICINITY;

(ii) THAT ANY PROPOSAL TO EXTEND AN EXISTING DWELLING (IN CASES WHERE PLANNING PERMISSION IS REQUIRED) IS COMPATIBLE WITH THE SCALE OF THE EXISTING DWELLING, ITS CURTILAGE AND THE CHARACTER OF THE STREET SCENE;

(iii) THAT NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OR ANY PROPOSAL FOR THE EXTENSION (IN CASES WHERE PLANNING PERMISSION IS REQUIRED) OR CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING DWELLING PROVIDES STANDARDS OF AMENITY AND PRIVACY ACCEPTABLE TO THE LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY.

9.69 The Council wishes to secure environmental enhancement through new development. Proposals that would detract from the character of an area owing to obviously poor design will be resisted. Similarly proposals that would change the established character of an area, by, for example, introducing high-density housing development where low densities predominate, will normally be unacceptable. The design and layout of new development can also assist with crime prevention and the Council will have regard to the advice in Circular 5/94 'Planning Out Crime' and 'Secured by Design' initiative. The assistance of the Thames Valley Policy Architectural Liaison Officer will be sought in this context.

C33 THE COUNCIL WILL SEEK TO RETAIN ANY UNDEVELOPED GAP OF LAND WHICH IS IMPORTANT IN PRESERVING THE CHARACTER OF A LOOSE-KNIT SETTLEMENT STRUCTURE OR IN MAINTAINING THE PROPER SETTING FOR A LISTED BUILDING OR IN PRESERVING A VIEW OR FEATURE OF RECOGNISED AMENITY OR HISTORICAL VALUE.

9.76 Not all undeveloped land within the structure of settlements can be built on without damage to their appearance and rural character. Where the existing pattern of development is loose-knit there will often be a compelling case for it to remain so for aesthetic, environmental or historical reasons.

9.77 Proposals that would close or interrupt an important view of a historic building eg a church or other structure of historical significance, will be resisted under this policy. The Council will also have regard to the importance of maintaining the setting of a listed building and will resist infill development that would diminish its relative importance or reduce its immediate open environs to the extent that an appreciation of its architectural or historical importance is impaired.

9.78 Proposals that would close or interrupt an important vista across open countryside will also be discouraged, as will the loss of trees of amenity value or the loss of features

such as boundary walls where they constitute an important element of an attractive or enclosed streetscape.