Dear Planning Inspector

I am writing as a resident of Sibford Gower respectfully to request that the above plan by Cedar Homes be refused on appeal.

The case for refusal is set out in the letter of 14 December by Chadwick Town Planning on behalf of the Sibford Action Group, which I endorse. The key point is that quoted from the Inspector in another (Finmere) case, who found that the " fundamental objection is that the scheme would deliver too many new homes in a village with few facilities. It would run counter to the aims of Local Plan Policy ESD 1 which seeks to mitigate climate change by locating the majority of new housing in accessible locations where there is choice of employment, social, community and retail facilities and a choice of transport, thus reducing the need for travel; and it would not satisfy the criterion in Local Plan Policy Villages 2 in terms of location to services and facilities."

All these points apply generally to small villages, which we are, and specifically to Sibford Ferris, which is already affected by the permitting of 25 additional homes on its perimeter. Much as we cherish our rural environment, I am sure you have visited and seen how few our facitilies are, how narrow our roads, and how poor the maintenance of them. This proposed development would make life worse for residents, damage the beauty of the area, and run contrary to environmental policy. These are the strongest possible grounds for rejecting this appeal.

More generally, and accepting that nationally we need a rapid increase in housing supply, I hope that Cherwell DC will maximise the opportunities for regeneration of brownfield sites in and close to established centres of population. Though not specific to Cherwell, I would also suggest a provision that where modest new build is considered in rural areas, it should only permit the building of "carbon neutral" houses. This might partially address both environmental and community concerns.

I beg you to reject the appeal.

Yours sincerely

Sir Stephen Gomersall