

I am Cllr Nina Musgrave, and I am speaking on behalf of Drayton Parish Council as Deputy Chair.

Drayton Parish Council continues to strongly support the refusal of Planning application 23/00853/OUT involving the land east of the Warwick Road, Banbury by Vistry Homes. The land concerned lies principally in Drayton Civil Parish although is adjacent to Hanwell Village.

This statement is to express Drayton Council's longstanding and firm belief that local villages should NOT become part of Banbury and that the gap between Banbury and Hanwell should be maintained indefinitely.

Support for this belief is in the form of the SAVED POLICY C15 of The Cherwell Local Plan 1996, to quote:

"The Council will prevent the coalescence of settlements by resisting development in the areas of open land which are important in distinguishing them." Paragraph 9.30 in explanation, specifically mentions both Drayton and Hanwell as villages needing protection.

Support also comes from CORE POLICY 45, of the draft 'Cherwell Local Plan Settlement Gaps' which has been consulted on for Regulation 18. Again, I quote:

"Development proposals will only be permitted where 1) The physical and visual separation between two separate settlements is not diminished and 2) Cumulatively, with other existing or proposed development, it does not compromise the physical and visual separation between settlements.

In addition, policies ESD13 and ESD15 of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2040 both stress the need to protect Conservation areas. The gap between the village of Hanwell and Banbury does just that and any building within the gap would be contrary to both ESD13 and ESD15.

Drayton Parish Council believes the appeal should be dismissed as the development is contrary to all of the above policies of Cherwell District Council.

On a more personal note, since becoming a Councillor in July 2019, the number of new properties built in our Parish over those 5 years has increased by over 330%. This figure excludes phase 2 properties currently being constructed at Drayton Lodge Farm, which would increase this figure to c. 630%. Just to note these figures are based on our precept numbers over this period.

This increase causes me, and a very, very large number of our residents major concerns as our distinct boundary with Banbury continues to be eroded and many fear that our very old and distinct village will soon be swallowed up and we will just become another part of Banbury like Grimsbury.

Twenty years ago I moved from Banbury to a village, I did this for the same reason I'm sure everywhere sat next to me did; I wanted to live in a village. And I would like to continue to live in a village for the next 20 years too. On behalf of Drayton, I respectfully ask the inspector to dismiss this appeal.