

I am writing this to object strongly because the planned development of 175 houses over two fields would mean our small village Hanwell would be joined to Banbury. Hanwell has only 120 houses! Over the last 20 years since I have lived here 100's of houses have been built coming ever nearer to Hanwell and Cherwell has now met its 5.4 year housing supply. We were told that no development would go over the boundary for Banbury but that has already been ignored. It will erode an important gap of undeveloped land that is protected under existing planning policy. Among other things it provides an important area for wildlife and views north of Banbury. There are brownfield sites which could be built on in and around the town centre which would give the opportunity for a more vibrant town.

Banbury does not have the infrastructure to support more developments. Hennef way is one of the most congested and polluted roads in S.E England and 175 houses will contribute to the already difficult traffic situation, causing yet more congestion. It will cause the loss of green spaces and have an adverse impact on the environment and biodiversity. We no longer see bats in our garden and insects are on the decline. The proposed development is on prime agricultural land and would result in the loss of high grade farmland which is crucial for sustainable farming and food security.

Our world is in a very precarious position and we all need to be doing more to change the way we behave. Our village is very old and we have an important heritage and conservation site which we aim to conserve for future generations. Building 175 houses will go against the Cherwell Local Plan and is contrary to the adopted planning policy. I am not against affordable housing but this is not affordable for most people. Landlords will buy these properties up and make a profit from so called affordable housing.