

Comment for planning application 21/00922/OUT

Application Number	21/00922/OUT
Location	Land West Of Foxden Way Great Bourton OX17 1QY
Proposal	OUTLINE Planning Application for up to 9 entry-level affordable houses - all matters reserved save for access
Case Officer	James Kirkham
Organisation Name	Julie Johnson
Address	Oaklea,Manor Road,Great Bourton,Banbury,OX17 1QP
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>We wish to register our objection to the proposed development, for the below reasons: There are several species of wildlife seen in and around Great Bourton that are endangered due to the destruction of habitat. The landscape report states that this land is "species-poor", however, fails to mention that heavy machinery has been operating in the area for the last six months at least, which is likely to have scared away anything living in the area. The author recommends that the developers maintain the area prior to construction to ensure it does not attract wildlife. This suggests that without heavy machinery and the giant piles of debris currently in place, the area might not be species-poor at all. The application also notes that the hedges would be "reinforced"; the developer recently removed an existing hedge without permission - I fear what would happen to the existing hedges on this new site. Great Bourton has already taken its share of new housing via the Garner's Field development at the entrance to the village, some of which was supposed to be earmarked as affordable. Within a five minute drive from Great Bourton there are at least four large, new housing developments which are increasing in size and encroaching ever further onto green spaces. Unfortunately it doesn't appear that Banbury's services are increasing in line with these builds; local doctors surgeries and schools have ever growing waiting lists and, affecting Great Bourton in particular, at peak hour the traffic at the Hennef Way roundabout frequently banks back as far as the Amazon facility. It would seem that Cherwell council should address these issues and assess how the new developments affect the area before approving more. Whilst the Cherwell housing plan does state a need to develop rural, affordable, housing, it also states that this housing should be close to "jobs, transport, shops, community facilities, green spaces and play parks." Of these key features, only green spaces and play parks are available in Great Bourton, one of which will be sacrificed to create this development. Aside from home industry or farm work, there are limited to no employment opportunities in Great or Little Bourton and there is no public transport save a bus service to Banbury which operates only on a Thursday and Saturday. There is one shop in walking distance, located in Cropredy. Any new development would require residents to have their own cars, or to use taxis; both options increasing traffic on a very quiet, narrow road. Cycling to Banbury isn't ideal; aside from the hills, there are infrequent and inconsistent cycle lanes, and very few passing areas. There is no footpath between the Bourtons. The housing plan does state the lack of affordable housing is caused in part by issues in existing stock, which is below standard. Rather than destroying existing green fields, it would seem a more innovative and sustainable solution would be to develop existing brownfield sites, bringing housing that is already available up to standard and creating new housing opportunities in previously commercial areas. This would seem even more desirable when considered in conjunction with the issues being experienced by high streets across the country; surely redeveloping existing properties and brownfield sites would provide the dual benefit of increasing affordable housing convenient to the shops, jobs and transport highlighted within the plan, as well as introducing new life into the town centre. It is noteworthy that of the limited support expressed for this development, the majority comes from outside Great and Little Bourton; there are very few residents who, during their daily walk, jog, cycle or horseride along Foxden Way, think that what would really improve the area is another identikit housing development and a footpath between two buildings that obscures the view of the surrounding farmland.</p>
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Attachments	