

Comment for planning application 21/04275/OUT

Application Number	21/04275/OUT
Location	Part OS Parcel 8149 Adj Lords Lane And SE Of Hawkwell Farm Lords Lane Bicester
Proposal	OUTLINE - with all matters reserved except for Access - Mixed Use Development of up to 3,100 dwellings (including extra care); residential and care accommodation(C2); mixed use local centre (comprising commercial, business and service uses, residential uses, C2 uses, local community uses (F2(a) and F2(b)), hot food takeaways, public house, wine bar); employment area (B2, B8, E(g)); learning and non-residential institutions (Class F1) including primary school (plus land to allow extension of existing Gagle Brook primary school); green Infrastructure including formal (including playing fields) and informal open space, allotments, landscape, biodiversity and amenity space; burial ground; play space (including Neaps/Leaps/MUGA); changing facilities; ground mounted photovoltaic arrays; sustainable drainage systems; movement network comprising new highway, cycle and pedestrian routes and access from highway network; car parking; infrastructure (including utilities); engineering works (including ground modelling); demolition
Case Officer	Caroline Ford
Organisation Name	
Name	David A Jones
Address	Gagle Brook House, Bicester Road, Chesterton, Bicester, OX26 1UF
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>Ever since 2005, I have argued that the Cherwell District local plan should include a green belt around Bicester to protect the surrounding villages from encroachment. We were able to do so for Chesterton. This followed an agreement between Cherwell District Council and Countryside Properties, completed in August 2020, for the Council to acquire 108 acres of land for the Burnehyll Community Woodland. There is now a 400m green buffer between the village and Vendee Drive and Kingsmere. Although it has taken a long time to reach this stage, in December 2021 we made a start by planting 1000 trees to add to those Countryside Properties had already planted in several places some years ago. Many more trees will be planted during the next few years. At the very least, there should be a similar buffer between the nuclear village of Bucknell and Hawkwell. The more I have seen of speculative planning applications for land around Bicester, the more convinced I am that it is not easy to conform to the legal requirement to increase the biodiversity of the land being used (arable and pasture land) without losing much that already exists. It is difficult enough when planting woodland, but virtually impossible for housing. For example, the fields of Hawkwell have resident populations (families) of badgers, roedeer, barn owls, and probably skylarks. These four species are a miniscule representative of the myriad of animals, plants, fungi, bacteria and other organisms that have built up an ecosystem that follows the annual cycle of sowing, harvesting and/or grazing on the land. Almost no thought is given to where all these organisms will go when their habitats are destroyed for ever. A wide green space between Bucknell and this proposed development is probably the only mitigation that could partly satisfy any true criterion for increasing the biodiversity. The real answer is to refuse outline planning permission.</p>
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Attachments	