

Comment for planning application 23/00853/OUT

Application Number	23/00853/OUT
Location	Land East Of Warwick Road Drayton Warwick Road Banbury
Proposal	Outline application for up to 170 dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated open space and vehicular access off Warwick Road, Banbury; All matters reserved except for access
Case Officer	Richard Greig
Organisation Name	Stephen Cobb
Address	Beechcroft,9 Main Street,Hanwell,Banbury,OX17 1HN
Type of Comment	Objection
Type	neighbour
Comments	<p>I strongly object to this proposal.</p> <p>It extends development of Banbury beyond the long standing green divide to the north of Duke's Meadow Drive. Going beyond this natural barrier eats into prime agricultural land at a time when the need for food security and reducing the nation's reliance on imported food (with its associated carbon footprint) means that we should be expanding not reducing food production.</p> <p>This development will never deliver the claimed increase in local biodiversity unless more cats and dogs are being counted. In reality the increased urbanisation will reduce the areas for established wildlife to roam (deer are often seen between Hanwell and the current natural barrier) as well as generating more wind blown waste/litter in the immediate area.</p> <p>This development, if approved, would likely provide the precedent for even more development in the north of Banbury on both sides of the Warwick Road that will lead to further erosion of the rural parishes and for the eventual incorporation of Hanwell (including its protected conservation area) into the town of Banbury.</p> <p>I understand the need for more more housing stock within Cherwell District but I question whether there has ever been a plan for matching investment in local infrastructure. Certainly in the 8 years that I have lived in Hanwell I have only seen houses and a small retail unit built to serve communities north of Duke's Meadow Drive. There have been no meaningful road improvements in the north of Banbury and access to the town centre, Motorway at Junction 11 or retail areas was only sensible during a global pandemic!!! As our lives have returned to pre-pandemic norms the traffic on Ruscote Avenue and the Southam Road between the town centre and Ruscote Avenue during busy periods (commute and weekends) once again is intolerable. I fully expect that in the weeks before Christmas this year these roads will be more or less log jammed with people trying to get in and out of Banbury Cross Retail/Tesco. The additional traffic from the warehousing off the Southam road with its seasonal demand will only make that roundabout even more congested. The increased parking built at the train station certainly makes rail commuting to London a more attractive option but it wouldn't surprise me if some days the journey from car park to home might take as long as from Marylebone to Banbury!</p> <p>I don't have children at school age but I have not heard about new schools for all of these extra houses (again across 8 years in Hanwell). I have only seen services reduce at our local hospital. I know how difficult it is to get a doctor's appointment or dental treatment in this town - I'd say the only service that Banbury town can claim to deliver a wide and free choice of is men's haircuts and that cannot be a result of conscious town planning.</p> <p>The Cherwell local plan recognised the value of our natural countryside and the part that rural villages play within it. Approval of any development north of the existing barrier line would be a complete betrayal of that plan. If Hanwell village is not safe then where next? Drayton, Wroxton, North Newington? Will the District Council only be happy when Bloxham and Middleton Cheney are both suburbs of Banbury? Where does the urban sprawl end?</p>
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Attachments	