

# Comment for planning application 25/01346/OUT

<b>Application Number</b>	25/01346/OUT
<b>Location</b>	Part OS Parcel 0006 North Of The Moors Kidlington
<b>Proposal</b>	Outline planning application with All Matters Reserved (except means of access) for up to 340 dwellings (Use Class C3), land for local community use and pavilion, landscaping, public open space and associated infrastructure, including demolition of 162 The Moors to enable all modes access
<b>Case Officer</b>	Carlos Chikwamba
<b>Organisation Name</b>	Philip Durrant
<b>Address</b>	2 Deaufort Close, Kidlington, OX5 2BQ
<b>Type of Comment</b>	Objection
<b>Type</b>	neighbour

**Comments**

My family and I live on the corner of Benmead Road and Deaufort Close, and I would be sad to see the proposed development on the land behind the Moors go ahead (application no: 25/01346/OUT), on a number of points.

Firstly, my family and I frequently walk out on the fields using the footpath at the bottom of Benmead Rd by the pond. This was a real lifeline to us and many others during the Covid Pandemic, and a source of health, wellbeing and pleasure before and ever since. We feel it a privilege to be so close to nature, and it is a thrill to have regular visits from the fields right into our close: foxes, muntjac deer, swifts, bats and sparrow hawks. Green spaces are precious for both people and wildlife, and whilst I understand the need for housing, I find it depressing that the green belt should so often be the first victim of development. Are there not more creative 'third way' solutions to addressing both the housing crisis and the climate crisis without resorting to zero-sum trade-offs? It makes council declarations of climate emergencies sound hollow. As a volunteer at St Mary's Fields Nature Reserve and Park Hill growing spaces team - which are both close to the proposed site - as well as the chair of the Kidlington Eco Group, I would like to advocate for different and Council-and-community-commissioned solutions to the housing need. I have often been impressed by the highly organized local opposition efforts to developments or proposals for local green space protections in this area, but I am simultaneously demoralized to see such instances of impassioned and conscientious local activism prove consistently ineffective and appear so democratically powerless.

An additional concern I have as a parent is about the increased volume of traffic along Benmead Rd that will no doubt result from this development. I cannot see how it will not become a primary through-route for traffic to Banbury Road, unless the road is closed somehow. The plans also seem to imply there is a proposal to re-route some bus services (S4 / X4 and 9) along Benmead Rd (Transport Assessment, p.20)? My young children play in this area, and, along with many others, walk to North Kidlington School along this road. It already becomes very busy during the school run. The school has previously communicated safety concerns over traffic and parking at the school gates, and the development plans can only exacerbate these existing issues, as well as contribute to local pollution and carbon emissions.

I also can't see how the new build can do anything other than increase the risk and incidence of run-off and flooding in the area. Parish Councillor David Betts reported to Kidlington Eco Group how in recent years have seen higher intensity and duration of rainfall in Kidlington, that have not only led to multiple instances of flooding in the village but also revealed just how insufficient and confused the underlying infrastructure / drainage is. I've spoken in the past to a number of people who live along the Moors, Mead Way and Mill Street who have historically experienced flooding in their homes and/or gardens. I have also observed various degrees of flooding on the fields around the Cherwell River ever year without fail, and one winter during Covid saw people playing ice hockey on the proposed site for the cricket green.

I understand these are difficult decisions to make and that you are having to balance numerous needs and vested interests. I have had very positive experiences of Cherwell District Council, particularly your Healthy Place Shaping team, and I'll continue to volunteer

for local conservation efforts whatever the outcome. Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my comments.

**Received Date**

19/06/2025 13:54:21

**Attachments**