

From: Lorraine
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To: Planning <Planning@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk>
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Lorraine Bairstow
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I am writing as I have been unsuccessful accessing the website from my mobile phone.

Objection reasons:

1. Increase in traffic will make it difficult to leave drives/side roads at busy times. Majority of people use cars for work unless their employment is on main bus route so most homes have more than 1 vehicle (current figures show 1.42 cars per household in 2022 & rising). Although the Highway Agency will say Kidlington has good public transport, which is true, it is not like living in London as most work is in wider Oxfordshire, where people need to catch 2 or 3 busses to access employment outside of the city centre. I feel most vehicles would use Benmead as the other access roads have speed calming bumps. Benmead has a primary school and increased traffic puts children at risk, especially with this age group. Additional cars will also increase Kidlington's rush hour congestion with traffic clogging up main routes that back up through Kidlington from Sainsbury's roundabout and indeed the ring road roundabout at Cutteslowe. This will only make this worse.
2. Risk of flooding. My in-laws bungalow backs on to the fields, these homes previously experienced issues with gardens flooding until the ditch at the end of the gardens was cleared so excess water could drain into pond at end of Benmead. Without this pond the likelihood of flooding will return and with 340 additional houses on the land water levels would be higher increasing the likelihood of floods reaching existing homes in the surrounding area which is a great concern for many. Following flooding earlier this year and last couple of years, surface water in these fields would make it unsuitable for a housing estate.
3. I, alongside many others, use these fields on a daily basis year round for walking my dog. This gives me a beautiful place to exercise and is great for relaxing, mental health, and mindfulness. It is exceptionally beautiful when the grasses are high, with lots of wild flowers. The numbers of birds and insects who use the fields (& pond) are great to see. These new houses will no doubt have a negative impact on the St Mary's Nature Reserve, and the pollinators using plants and growth in this area - going against the government's National Pollinator Strategy.
4. Flooding has increased over the last few years. This year the fields near the river were flooded for weeks making the deer and other wildlife come on to the top fields. Where will they go if these fields are turned into a housing estate?
5. Kidlington does not have the infrastructure to support an additional 340 houses here on top of the 4,400 agreed under the development plan. North Kidlington school isn't very big and has no room to expand. On top of this there is only one secondary

school. Our GP surgeries are already over subscribed, you have to wait weeks for an appointment or even telephone consultation unless it is urgent and that is without any additional patients. Are you planning on building additional surgeries?

6. If planning is granted the large vehicles needing access to the site and deliveries will cause chaos, vehicles are always parked on Benmead and would make this unsuitable for lorries and large vehicles. The roads are not wide and large vehicles would not be able to go around bends without encroaching on the path of on coming vehicles or pavements.

7. There is no need for additional cricket pitches, Stratfield Break has cricket pitches and parking provision. Stratfield Break was created for the purposes of providing sporting facilities for Kidlington residents and is successful. Any additional activities by Benmead will further increase the traffic flow and issues with road parking. Residents near other sporting grounds always experience parking issues.

8. Although I know additional housing may be needed, it is a wider concern the amount of farming fields being turned into housing estates. If we continue converting our farm land how will we be produce enough food without becoming dependent on imports.

I hope you will consider the above and thank you for your time.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Kind regards

Lorraine Bairstow