

12/08/2020

[1911]

5th August 2020

Objection on the additional evidence prepared as part of the Examination of the Central Bedfordshire Local Plan

Dear Sirs,

I wish to object on the following grounds:

Document - Exam 144 – Traffic Impact

The Marston Vale is assessed as strongly positive on sustainable transport. To build 5,000 houses would at least double the daily number of car journeys beginning and ending here. Sustainable transport means local roads can cope with increased traffic. Clearly this is wrong, as there is nothing in the evidence to support that happening. The plan involves development in Marston Vale on the grounds it is located along a strategic route, despite the decision to abandon the East West Expressway, and ignoring sites on the A6 – M1 – A5 route, which has planning permission and is committed to delivery. It also involves destroying permanently, Areas of outstanding Natural Beauty, green belt and community forest land, and ignores opportunities to develop options for expanding existing towns in Area D with access to existing facilities there.

Document - 115A

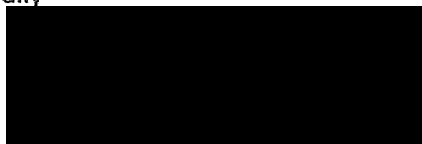
Alternative sites have not been included in the review. NIP has capacity for 13,000 houses and is west of Cranfield and better placed to take advantage of the £95 million huge government investment to build a new bridge over the M1 and public transport hub to access Milton Keynes, as part of development, to the east of Milton Keynes. It fails to address material changes since the Local Plan was submitted in 2018, such as the adoption by Milton Keynes of its Local Plan which includes development east of the M1.

What the council has produced does not resolve the issues the Planning Inspector raised and the Marston Vale should remain on the agenda for a public enquiry.

In these troubled times we have heard countless stories about people finding solace in, and of the importance of mental health, of being in the great outdoors and around the nature that is thriving within it. The Marston Vale is one of those such places and it would be criminal and heartless to consent to destroy much of it for housing and for the infrastructure that is needed to go with it. In the recent Government announcement regarding building planning, Robert Jenrick said that AONBs and green belt land would be protected.

The people who live in the villages in the Marston Vale want them to remain as villages, and to build 5,000 houses would make the area just like a modern town and would destroy the individual communities by merging them all together.

Yours faithfully



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