

From: Richard Neale
Sent: 29 September 2015 21:04
To: Minerals and Waste Plan Consultation - E&E
Subject: Strategy part 1-Representation

Oxfordshire County Council
Core Strategy 1 Consultation.
Oxford Minerals and Waste Local
Plan.

29.9.2015

I have printed off the Gardner Representation produced on behalf of OXAGE and has reviewed the Council's Strategy Document and its supporting documents. I entirely agree with the Gardner Report's comments and objections and will confine myself to just a few comments:

1. The very short timescale for this 'consultation exercise', given that you have given other parties rather more time and would appear to have taken their commercial interests into rather more account than you have the public's interest in minimising or removing environmental and other impacts, suggests that your attitude to the public is quite out-dated and dismissive of others' rational reasoning.
2. You seemingly enjoin or discourage the public to avoid issues such as the environmental impacts of such as your increased figure for gravel extraction while quoting environmental impacts averred to be in North and West Oxfordshire. No doubt we will be told we have been consulted on these issues and they have, to some degree been taken into account. In my view this alone may be taken to invalidate your consultation process as you are effectively suppressing adverse comment on issues you have regard to here.
3. It must be suspected that the poor quality gravels that were previously (and therefore) ignored in your gravel planning but added in at a very late stage and without consultation, are one reason for increasing the proposed 'quota' for Oxfordshire... the Cholsey site being the particular instance I have in mind.
4. The areas that you are turning your attention to in South Oxfordshire will be in some way reviewed in terms of impacts on the Historic and Natural Environment. Exactly how and when, and with what notice, is unclear. Paragraph 157 of your Report is particularly worrying for my locality where we have an ancient landscape both built and riverside with open country that is of very considerable national importance with a very important Anglo-Saxon 'Burh'...the largest fortress in Wessex and close association between the town and the surrounding hinterland and villages... most having been Royal and significant estates entirely inter-related historically.

In our area, the Historic Town is surrounded by AONB's and the surrounding landscape includes substantial areas of permanent and seasonal wetlands of a type that are being restored and enhanced where enlightened policies are being pursued elsewhere... (save by

such as the charity the Earth Trust and adjacent BBOWT who are trying to go the opposite direction by restoring local wetlands and creating nature reserves).

The pressure for, and plans for increased housing, means that the designated areas here.. one right on the river (cynically one might describe this the 'potential concession')....will clash with many other objectives, it would appear, quite unnecessarily.

I am a former Principal Officer at The City of Westminster's Planning Dept. (A Principal Design and Conservation Officer(W1 & North and West) Deputy Historic Buildings Officer etc) and I consider Oxfordshire County Council now, 30 years after I moved here, inferior in its regard for public involvement and in the real account taken in forming and evolving policyand that please note, is compared *even* to the City of Westminster *and* before 1985 !

Please advise me of further consultative stages and give very good notice, given your Council's marked preference for changing your 'direction of attack' without warning.

Yours Sincerely
Richard J Neale
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