

[REDACTED]

From: Joanna Robbins [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 November 2021 16:15
To: Local Plan
Subject: Borough Local Plan

My name is Joanna Robbins and I live in [REDACTED]

I would like to share my views and opinions with regards your Local Plan.

I am a mother of 3 and in recent conversations I have had with my youngest child who is 7, he has recollected in the last year being delighted in seeing a Wagtail and wagtail in Fords Rough, close to where we live. However, our discussions have been tainted with sadness at the potential negative impact that the huge housing development plan will have on this ancient woodland and the wider impacts on other green spaces. He has questioned why the diggers are so close and is aware of the news coverage and pleas from environmentalists and leaders from around the world, particularly during coverage of COP26.

So for this and many other reasons I strongly ask that instead of the 1400 acres of loss to Greenbelt you consider Brownfield sites first. Now more than ever it is imperative we protect our green open spaces and woodlands. Our countryside must be preserved, before the landscape is significantly and permanently altered.

Everyone is aware, not least due to the media coverage around COP26 that trees and woodland are essential in their ability to capture and hold carbon and thereby help fight climate change.

Furthermore, building so many houses (of which numbers proposed seem to be well out of line with population growth data) will have considerable pressure on roads, infrastructure, existing services, amenities and schools.

Recently walking around the development at Dipping Brook Avenue, I was greatly surprised to see so much tarmac, with each house having two car parking spaces and little greenery. Surely this flies in the face of what we should be encouraging, i.e for people to travel less in cars and more by their own steam, be that walking or cycling or indeed using public transport where available. Furthermore these car dependant developments are unnecessary and are not affordable and targeting those in need.

In summary, I do not believe that this plan meets the 'test of soundness' and I urge and plea that you will consider a preferred option that seeks to use brownfield land, so that vitally important habitats are not put at risk and that woods are not starved of open countryside and habitat and thereby put at irreparable harm. Our countryside must not be compromised!

Thank you in advance for considering and taking onboard my above comments.

Joanna Robbins