



## SANDFORD ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

93 Church Road  
Sandford-on-Thames  
Oxford OX4 4YA

3 October 2019

Dear SODC Councillor

### **South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 Options**

I am writing to you on behalf of Sandford-on-Thames Parish Council (PC), to urge you to use your vote responsibly in selecting the correct option for action to be taken by SODC over the highly contentious South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034, and to **vote for adopting Option C - to withdraw the Local Plan from examination by the Planning Inspectorate and to start work producing a new and more appropriate Local Plan for South Oxfordshire which will be subject to full public consultation according to both Regulation 18 and 19.**

Sandford-on-Thames PC has already communicated its serious concerns to SODC Planning Service about the flaws in both policy and in procedure which are evident in the submitted South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034, and in particular that, without any public consultation, SODC has made a major change in overall strategy from the existing adopted Planning policy to protect the Oxford Green Belt from inappropriate building developments, to an entirely contrary strategy to prioritise locating major strategic housing sites in the Oxford Green Belt, and without showing evidence that all other alternatives have been explored. Of particular concern to Sandford-on-Thames PC is the proposed strategic housing site named “Grenoble Road”, which is entirely within our Parish. It is located in the important section of the Green Belt on the edge of Oxford City, and has been included in this contentious Local Plan 2034 without any meaningful public consultation ever taking place, such that neither the inclusion nor the nature of this strategic housing site could be changed in the Local Plan as a result of any consultation responses from the residents of our Parish.

We are also concerned that the South Oxfordshire Local Plan 2034 is based on unsubstantiated housing need figures, as highlighted by the Oxfordshire CPRE (<http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/news/item/2781-cpre-urge-sodc-to-prepare-a-new-and-better-local-plan-for-the-district-s-future>).

The Planning Inspectors already examining the Local Plan 2034, are aware that a very large number of objections have been forwarded to them, and have asked SODC to explain how such inappropriate building in the Green Belt can be justified by any valid “exceptional circumstances”. Sandford-on-Thames PC considers that there are no “exceptional circumstances” to justify such potential destruction of the Green Belt, and the only way to evaluate the realistic sustainability of such strategic housing sites will be to start work on a new Local Plan with a new Sustainability Appraisal which takes into account all the relevant factors which determine sustainability.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Julie Anderson  
Parish Clerk