

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PlanningPolicy](#)  
**Subject:** WBC LPR Regulation19 Objection - SP17  
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As a Bucklebury Parish Councillor I fully support the objection submitted on behalf of the council and concur with the finding that the plan is unsound for the reasons outlined in BPC's submission. However I feel the need to add my personal objections to the plan which would have a detrimental effect on Upper Bucklebury and have an enormous impact on my wellbeing and that of others including my elderly neighbours who have lived in the village since the 1960s.

The negative impact of the proposed housing would change Upper Bucklebury from being a small rural village to being part of Thatcham. I did not choose to live in Thatcham when I bought my house in [REDACTED]. Thatcham has transport links, shops and cheaper houses but I wanted to live in a rural village with dark skies and access from my property to a wood where I regularly see deer, badgers, interesting flora and fungi, and can take a short walk to Bucklebury Common with its wonderful biodiversity. I take enormous pleasure on a warm evening sitting outside my house watching the stars which are very visible because of Bucklebury's dark skies policy, listening to the call of a nightjar, watching bats appear and later hearing tawny owls. My grandchildren feel it is a treat to sleep in my house because they hear 'the Wise Old Owl'.

Having so many new houses a very short distance from the bottom of Blacklands Copse will cause light pollution so our dark skies will become town skies. That number of people living so close to Blacklands and Bucklebury Common will have a serious negative effect on the biodiversity and the endangered species will vanish. Now in my [REDACTED], I will find this very hard to deal with so my wellbeing is at risk. Yes, I could move to another village but I have built up a network of local friends and neighbours in the [REDACTED] years I have lived here. I have invested in this community and take pleasure in knowing the area well to walk for my physical and mental fitness.

The extra traffic coming up Harts Hill, through the village and along the Common has not been thought through. Harts Hill is a narrow twisting road, already too busy and dangerous when driving up and coming across a cyclist just round a bend and a lorry or a bus coming the other way. There are frequent accidents already and the proposed number of houses will make this a death-trap. The village of Upper Bucklebury is already used as a rat-run and elderly residents crossing to the shop or church and children walking to Bucklebury Primary School are already in danger without the extra traffic that the development would produce.

Upper Bucklebury children have historically gone to Kennet School until recently when The Downs in Compton increased its catchment area. Now some parents who can afford the expensive bus fare or who are lucky enough to have time to transport their children, choose to have their children educated at The Downs. Were the new development to take place, in the early days before a new school would be opened, children from the new houses would take up the Kennet places as geographically they would live closer than Upper Bucklebury pupils. Were this to happen and The Downs were to become the allocated school for Upper Bucklebury rather than the school of choice, WBC would have an enormous bill transporting pupils. This is something I know WBC would not want to do because I was one of the group who set up Bucklebury Community Bus in 2016 to transport Bucklebury pupils to and from Kennet when the bus passes were removed.

Building so close to Upper Bucklebury would produce so much more footfall in the village and on the footpaths and woodland between. The nearest shop to the area around Colthrop Manor is the Spar shop in Upper Bucklebury. That would encourage much increased footfall on the track through Long Grove Copse which would be seriously detrimental to the ecosystems in the area. The path is a

muddy footpath which would become impassible with increased usage. The track on the housed part of Longrove is maintained by the residents and increased use would cause significant problems and massively increased costs.

These are some of the reasons I oppose the plan. I have no problem with a smaller number of houses being built in the village (e.g. approximately 40), but the current strategic gap is very important to me. Without it the effect on the biodiversity and ecosystems, and the detrimental effect on the rural way of life, would have a catastrophic effect on my mental health and wellbeing and that of many other longstanding residents.

yours sincerely,

Anne Hillerton