

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [PlanningPolicy](#)  
**Subject:** Local Plan Review Objections  
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### Thatcham Northeast Development

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There is nothing that recommends this development to me. Any decision on the WBC local plan should be delayed until after the elections in May 2023 so that the people of West Berkshire can decide who is best placed to deliver what they want. If you state that this is not possible then I believe that the people of Thatcham should have a referendum on the major changes proposed for our town. I have lived in Thatcham for most of my adult life, more than 35 years, and have seen very little improvement but never-ending housing development.

- Thames Water continues to discharge huge amounts of untreated sewage into local waters and fails to adequately maintain the requisite infrastructure, resulting in record fines and hose pipe bans. Why is this not a stopper for the Thatcham NE development?
- The Thatcham NE (TNE) estate houses will likely be built with few concessions to progress, the local population or the environment. Most will have gas boilers, no solar panels, tiny gardens (if any), poor drainage, awful roads, inadequate parking, poor services and be a blot on the landscape. Will there be additional maintenance charges to residents to support complex drainage and water supply requirements as is the case with another local development (18/00964/FULEXT)?
- Look at the Kennet Heath estate to see the end product of 21<sup>st</sup> century housing development, i.e. no front gardens, no gaps, inadequate parking, traffic issues and anti-social behaviour as a recent bonus.
- One should argue that the proposed TNE site is an AONB even if not so designated. It is a beautiful area (unlike some of the AONB).
- Getting in and out of Thatcham at peak hours is already a time-consuming exercise. I think that the A4 should be rerouted to follow the existing by-pass with some significant improvements. This would help through traffic.
- The town centre needs a revamp, businesses are closing (chemists, banks, pubs, restaurants and more) and free short-term parking is scarce. Land that could have been used to enhance the town centre's environmental facilities has been taken up by large blocks of expensive retirement apartments. These should have been built in AONB areas and not noisy town centres.
- Medical provision is poor with residents having to travel to Basingstoke or Reading hospitals to obtain treatment and even prescriptions (which GPs claim is necessary). Newbury has a hospital, but this fails to serve the needs of the local population. Why do my adult children prefer to use the North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke rather than the Royal Berkshire Hospital (n.b. not a difficult question to answer)?
- Crime appears to be getting worse, or at least social media seems to suggest this even if the statistics are mixed. I am getting increased numbers of daily reports recording stolen cars, stolen bikes and burglaries.
- Thatcham requires a bridge over the railway. It has done for many years. I worked in Basingstoke until recently and it was always a gamble whether you could use the crossing. Most days I would travel through Brimpton, Baughurst and Ramsdell but sometimes via Aldermaston, Silchester and Bramley. There is no public transport from Thatcham to Basingstoke.

Best Wishes,

**Steve Davies**