



Yvonne Rees
Chief Executive
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House
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6 July 2022

Dear Yvonne,

I recently met a number of parish councillors and residents who live in Hanwell to discuss their concerns about the review of the Local Plan.

I am sure you will be aware that a public consultation concluded at the end of June which focused on the Vistry Group's plans to construct 170 homes to the east of Warwick Road (B4100). The proposed site would extend to the outer boundary of Hanwell at Gullicott Lane. While both the land north of Dukes Meadow Drive and to the west of Warwick Road have both been designated for housing under the Cherwell Local Plan, this Warwick Road site was omitted from the previous plan. I understand that it has now been identified for possible inclusion under the current Local Plan Review.

The plans are causing considerable anxiety in the village. While supportive of the growth of Banbury as key to meeting Cherwell's ambitious housing targets, residents had always understood that they would retain the land to the east of Warwick Road as a clear boundary between their village and the growing town. Hanwell is a rural village, much of which is a designated conservation area. It has two listed buildings – St Peter's Church and Hanwell Castle – and the Hanwell Observatory is a much-loved community asset.

The site under consideration is currently productive arable land. A substantial hedgerow and tree line along the field's southern boundary forms a natural barrier between the development of Banbury and the land surrounding Hanwell. Residents are extremely worried that any potential development of this land could alter the character and identity of their village permanently, and act as a green light for the full incorporation of Hanwell into Banbury.

While Cherwell has long been one of the most successful housebuilding districts in the country, I have always felt that we must approach local development in a considerate and sustainable manner. The growth of our towns must be supported, but only where there is sufficient infrastructure to allow it and not be done to the detriment of the surrounding communities.

I am very aware that planning decisions are the responsibility of the District Council but hope that Hanwell's views will be considered carefully as part of the Local Plan Review.

Yours sincerely,

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