

# *Chiseldon Parish Council*



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## **Local Plan review and SHELAA Site S0432.**

Chiseldon Parish Council wishes to make the following comments in regards to Consultation question 1 and 3 of the Local Plan review.

### **Q3. Housing Sites.**

Within Chiseldon Parish, site S0432 has been identified in Badbury.

We have the following comments to make:

#### **1. Sustainability.**

- The hamlet has no footpaths along its length meaning walking is unsuitable due to issue of "rat running" that is already prevalent in this area. It is especially unsuitable for children and those with mobility issues.
- The narrow roads and aforementioned rat running also mean that cycling as a means of transport is hazardous.
- There is a lack of public transport facilities within the Hamlet.
- The above 3 points mean that motor vehicle transport is the only viable solution. Badbury has no on-street parking facilities and properties often lack on-site parking. This results in the already narrow lanes being obstructed with parked vehicles. Introducing extra dwellings to this area with the associated number of vehicles is not sustainable for this Hamlet.
- Added to this is the lack of street lighting which further contributes to its unsustainability.

- There are no facilities in Badbury with the exception of 1 public house. The area is not sustainable for further dwellings as every requirement means a motor vehicle must be used to access other facilities.

## 2. Conservation Area and North Wessex Downs AONB

- The proposed site SO432 resides directly next to the Badbury Conservation area as detailed in the document "Badbury. Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan" Adopted by Swindon Borough Council in February 2009.
- Item 6.1 on page 18 of this document details how this conservation area could be enhanced and improved.
- It encourages planning to respect and promote what is special about this conservation area. It should also seek to ameliorate or remove negative elements.  
These comments should be considered when assessing site SO432 as suitable for potential development.
- The site lies completely within the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and as such it should be considered whether the location in question is suitable for a new development. The plot could house over 10 dwellings making it a major development on AONB land for which exceptional circumstances would have to be demonstrated. The council does not feel that exceptional circumstances have been demonstrated in this respect.
- The location of SO432 is not in keeping with the linear nature of this Hamlet which should be preserved as one of its main characteristics as listed in the Badbury Conservation Area Appraisal and Management plan listed above. Page 12 item 31. States "The predominant pattern of development is linear. Dwellings and former farm buildings stand beside the highway as it winds through the hamlet". Page 13 also states "...backland development is uncharacteristic of this predominantly linear village".
- Strategic infill of Badbury on vacant plots should be the only development considered due to the linear nature of the Hamlet.

## **Question 1. Development Management Policies**

For policy DM22 the Parish Council would like to see an additional paragraph stating the following:

*"Due consideration should be given during the planning process where development is proposed in small villages or hamlets that have no facilities, limited public transport or where it would be unsafe to access facilities in nearby settlements by walking or cycling by reason of having to use rural unlit roads with no footways."*

In conclusion Chiseldon Parish Council is not supportive of site SO432 remaining in the Local Plan and SHELAA.

We also request that policy DM22 have the paragraph above considered for inclusion.