

Oaksey Parish Council.

Comments on Ashton Keynes Neighbourhood Plan.

Oaksey Parish Council opposes the current Ashton Keynes (AK) Neighbourhood Plan to develop the Cotswold Community site.

Our objections can be divided into two sections:

1. Increased traffic movements through Oaksey.
2. The absence of any sustainability justification for planning to build on this site-which is remote, in the countryside and unconnected to the main settlement.

#### 1. Traffic.

75 new homes will generate very significant additional traffic through the narrow and already over used single file (in part) road through Oaksey. As part of the main west/east route through the water parks the village is already overwhelmed at rush hours and increasingly risky at other times. The village is currently setting up a 20mph zone and other traffic calming measures in conjunction with Wiltshire highways in recognition of the existing traffic problems. The additional traffic will also increase the risk at the already dangerous crossroads adjacent to the site.

If this plan is approved Oaksey PC also fear further development plans for this site (and hence increased traffic loading) in part as 'an incentive to developers to provide some infrastructure'.

#### 2. An unsustainable site.

The proposed development site is remote in the green belt, unconnected to any existing settlement, will have no amenities and its residents will be totally dependent on cars for transport.

The AK plan itself justifies the number of new homes needed (pro rata to village population) as 15 by 2026. AK is the sustainable settlement cited by Wiltshire yet the solution offered for providing additional homes is on a remote site in preference to one linked to the village itself. This plan runs contrary to Wiltshire's current development strategies.

The site has existing houses which were built to house employees of the Community and not as the basis of a residential estate- irrespective of their current usage status. It was not designed as, and is not sustainable as, a remote residential development.

In fact the AK plan specifically states that it will:

‘address the sustainability or any other requirements that arise from a specific site proposal’.

The plan clearly fails to meet this challenge.

In addition, the AK plan states ‘we must ensure that any increase in population also brings enhanced infrastructure’ and ‘maintain a strong community within the Parish’. This proposal conflicts directly as there is no integration with the village and no amenities provided on site.

The design access statement claims ‘providing access to local facilities and public transport via convenient direct paths’. This proposal also fails this requirement.

The local schools do not have sufficient capacity to accommodate the additional children.

The site is also surrounded by an officially designated flood zone. This again questions its sustainability as a new development.

Summary.

The plan to develop the Cotswold Community site to satisfy the Parish’s housing allocation is excessive and unsustainable, and will cause serious traffic problems to neighbouring parishes.

Oaksey PC have made very considerable efforts to resist remote residential developments in its parish, and will continue to object to all such remote development proposals in our region.

We would like to see the AK Neighbourhood Plan revised to remove support for this remote and unsustainable residential development with a sustainable alternative provided.

Oaksey PC. 30.10.15