SAMPLE LETTER (recommended) or email to send to Chiltern Councillors

**PLEASE MODIFY TO SUIT YOUR OWN VIEWS**

Dear Sir / Madam,

The Council is due to meet next Weds evening where you are being asked to approve the Publication version of the Chiltern and South Bucks Local Plan to 2036.

I urge you to VOTE AGAINST this proposal.

The Agenda and information packs previously provided to Councillors suggests that this new Local Plan still includes unsound proposals for all the land at Lye Green NE of Chesham to be removed from Green Belt designation and earmarked for comprehensive development of 500 homes plus community centre, a large shop if over 5,000 sq ft and 15 gypsy/traveller pitches.

As a supporter of the Brown Not Green campaign, a am outraged that this land remains in the new Local Plan despite all the objections and issues that BNG and many hundreds of other people have relayed to the Council over the last 3 years.

In particular, we cannot understand how recent Joint Scrutiny / Planning Committee meetings can have given any meaningful thought to the emerging Plan on which to ask the Council to endorse it, when there are still important evidence documents which that are not published in the Council’s Evidence Base.

These evidentiary documents include the more detailed Sustainability Assessment and particularly the site-specific details of the “exceptional circumstances” required under National Planning Guidance in order to modify Green Belt boundaries. These were promised to BNG by the former senior planning officer (Graham Winwright) nearly 17 months ago. Where are they? The Courts have ruled that housing needs alone are NOT “exceptional circumstances”.

Even if they exist, it is wrong that prior public scrutiny of such matters is denied. If the proposal is now to deposit hundreds of pages of new evidence into the public domain at the same time as publishing the Local Plan, that is simply unfair and would be a breach of natural justice to then expect the public to scrutinise this all in in just 6 weeks.

The fact is this site is an unsustainable location being too far from the town centre and public transport. The potential for congestion, flooding combined with the loss of Green Infrastructure are harmful and unsustainable proposals. Adding a bus stop is simply not good enough!

In any event the land may shortly be listed as an Asset of Community Value which by definition, improves the social wellbeing of the wider community. It is therefore inappropriate to earmark such land for development when potentially many members of the public may have long established rights of way over the land. The proposals insofar as they relate to Chesham, are therefore unsound for numerous reasons and WILL cause harm to the wider community around the whole town through increased traffic, and air pollution when there is already an air quality problem nearby within Chesham that already harms us all including children.

This Council is shortly to be dissolved when a new Unitary Authority comes into existence next year and I will find it hard to give my support to any candidate seeking election onto the new Authority who simply allows these flawed Local Plan proposals for Chesham to be voted though on the nod.

Please do the right thing and stop this now!

Yours faithfully,

Mr/ Mrs / Mrs XYZ

**PLEASE NOTE:**

* Letters are better than emails.
* TIME IS SHORT SO SEND IT BY EMAIL TOO
* Letters & emails should go to the Councillors home address found by clicking on the relevant Councillor’s name at <https://isa.chiltern.gov.uk/democracy/mgMeetingAttendance.aspx?ID=3674>
* To find your councillor visit <https://isa.chiltern.gov.uk/democracy/mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1>
* If you still feel the need to **lobby other councillors by email too**, their email addresses are found in either of the above links.