



The countryside charity Buckinghamshire

Embargoed: 00.01, Friday 24 January 2020

Local Groups call for Chiltern & South Bucks Local Plan to be withdrawn

Realisation of a Climate Emergency moves the goalposts

A number of local groups and Councillors, led by the Buckinghamshire Branch of CPRE (the countryside charity) have signed an open letter to the Chiltern and South Bucks Council, calling on them to withdraw the draft Local Plan before it commences a full Public Inspection.

The Local Plan is intended to set out how the Chiltern and South Bucks areas will develop over the period until 2036, however there has been a radical change in circumstances since the Plan was produced last year. The signatories believe the declaration of a climate emergency, plus the move to a Unitary Authority in April, means the Plan in its current form is no longer appropriate. In its place a Unitary Plan should be worked on as soon as possible.

Neil Salisbury, Head of Planning at CPRE Buckinghamshire, said:

“The draft Local Plan is already out of date. The Council has signed up to the IPCC target of “an immediate reduction in carbon emissions by 45% from 2010 levels by 2030”, yet the Sustainability Appraisal that was carried out on the Plan actually shows it is heading for a 21% *increase* in carbon emissions over the plan period. This is clearly inconsistent.

“The climate change threat means that a radical, and therefore completely new, approach is needed. Tweaking the current Plan will not be good enough. Taking into consideration the introduction of the Unitary, plus the Glover Review recommendation to designate the Chilterns as a National Park, means we should withdraw the proposed Plan and immediately start working on a new, Unitary-wide, plan that acknowledges these events.”

ENDS

Notes to Editor:

1. Four Groups representing thousands of members and supporters, plus a number of local Councillors, have signed the letter to the joint Local Authority, led by CPRE. The signatories are:
 - a. CPRE Buckinghamshire branch
 - b. Beaconsfield Society
 - c. Chesham Society
 - d. Brown Not Green
 - e. Alastair Pike, Leader of Beaconsfield Town Council



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- f. Anita Cranmer , Buckinghamshire County and Beaconsfield Town Councillor and Conservative Candidate for Beaconsfield Town in the Buckinghamshire Council 2020
 - g. Jackson Ng, Beaconsfield Town Councillor and Conservative Candidate for Beaconsfield Town, Buckinghamshire Council 2020
2. The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) fights for a better future for the English countryside. We work locally and nationally to protect, shape and enhance a beautiful, thriving countryside for everyone to value and enjoy. Our members are united in their love or England's landscapes, so it can to sustain enchant and inspire future generations. Founded in 1926, President: Emma Bridgewater, Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.
www.cpre.org.uk. Bucks County Branch www.cprebucks.org.uk, President Dame Cheryl Gillan MP

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