



C-POW

Campaign to Protect Old Woodstock

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Blenheim's builds: it's time for you to comment on the latest designs!

Blenheim have edited their plan, but ...
the fundamental problems remain!

Dear neighbour,

In our last newsletter, we promised to provide some guidelines to objecting to the latest documents that Blenheim has placed on the WODC planning portal. **We urge you to put in your objections to the proposed development – the more people that object the more notice will be taken of our objections. You can object more than once.**

You can object by:

- **Commenting** to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) [Click here.](#) (type "Land East of Hill Rise" in the Search box and then click on "Comments").
- **Writing** to: Planning Department, West Oxfordshire District Council, Elmfield, New Yatt Road, Witney, OX28 1 PB (Ref. 21/00189/FUL), or
- **Telephoning** the Council to object – tel. 01993 861000
- **Emailing** planning@westoxon.gov.uk quoting ref. 21/00189/FUL

Objections should be submitted by: **Thursday 30th December.** If you can't make that date, please still comment as we believe they will be accepted up until the decision date.

C-POW's Response to Blenheim's Design Changes

Blenheim has made some changes to the proposed design. For example, they have reduced the height of the tallest buildings from 13m to 11m, they have enlarged the public footpath (PROW), they have contracted the northern and eastern boundaries to better match the allocation site, and they have changed some planting.

In our view, none of the changes made by Blenheim meet any of the fundamental objections that C-POW and others have previously made to the proposed development:

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- The application is contrary to the Local Plan. Blenheim has applied for permission to build 180 homes whereas the allocation in the Local Plan was 120. Blenheim has not budged an inch on this and the application should be refused on this ground alone. The Local Plan allocated 120 houses to the site because, in the view of the Planning Inspector, Woodstock could support 600 new houses – 300 at Park View, 180 at the Banbury Road site, and 120 at the Hill Rise site. The Planning Inspector also considered that 120 homes on the Hill Rise site would not cause undue harm to the setting of the World Heritage site.
- There is nothing in the new documents about a safe and direct pedestrian and cycle route to Woodstock town centre or to the schools. The A44 is patently not a safe route and Blenheim has offered no alternative. No-one except Blenheim thinks this is a safe route. The public bodies consulted on this point all agreed that it is not safe.
- The proposed development would inevitably cause an increase in traffic on the A44, which is already overburdened with traffic and is unsafe.
- There is nothing in the new documents about how the infrastructure problems would be resolved: the doctors' surgery is inadequate for the *existing* population, there is inadequate school capacity to cope with increased demand, there is a severe parking problem in Woodstock which would be exacerbated by new developments, and the library is about half the size set by the County standard.
- Thames Valley Police have objected strongly to the proposed development on the grounds that the design could encourage antisocial behaviour.

Our view, in conclusion, is that **Blenheim's proposed design changes are largely cosmetic and do nothing to address the fundamental problems of the proposed development.**

[View the planning documents and comments here](#)

[WATCH the C-POW video, outlining key concerns \(10 minutes\)](#)

Land North of Banbury Road

Our knowledge and focus is on Old Woodstock but please also consider the concurrent Banbury Road application (250 houses, 21/00217/OUT) which, together with Hill Rise and the other Blenheim developments, will result in a **41% increase in the population of Woodstock.**

Thank you.

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