

Seven things to consider about the West Eynsham “Strategic Development Area”

1. Affordable housing needs to be written in to the plans. A 4- or 5-bedroom detached house would mean a tidy profit for the developers, but take up more land that could otherwise be used to build much needed smaller 2-bedroom ‘starter’ houses for first time buyers or new families.
2. We want a real extension of the village, not just ‘suburban sprawl’ of new houses tacked on to the side, making sure that ‘West Eynsham’ is an area of the village, not a separate housing estate.
3. It’s a long walk from 12-acre Farm (the far end of the site) to the Co-op. There needs to be a dedicated local centre in the new development and plans for a convenience store and other shops.
4. With 1000 new houses planned, our schools will be overflowing. We need a new small primary school on this site, improvement of the existing Eynsham Primary School site, and extra provision at Bartholomew for students from the new development
5. Getting to the countryside is going to be harder. With the new development taking up a lot of the existing countryside we use for recreation, we want to make sure there is a park within the development following the course of the Chil Brook and linking with public walkways and paths.
6. A new ‘spine road’ is planned from a new roundabout on the A40 through the development to Standlake Road. This could end up as a rat-run through the new houses, or, if it was built at the edge as a ‘ring road’, it would create a barrier cutting off the countryside from our village, and creating another point to funnel A40 traffic to the toll bridge.
7. West Oxfordshire District Council’s “Area Action Plan” (AAP) for 2200 new houses in the Garden Village to the north of Eynsham is completely separate to the “West Eynsham Supplementary Development Plan” for 1000 houses. With all this building happening in one place, all development in the area should fall under the same AAP – which will be legally binding and keep developers, and the Council, to their word.