

## Ten reasons why the Garden Village is bad news for Eynsham

1. It will turn Eynsham village, with its healthy community spirit, into a sprawling, characterless Oxford suburb.
2. In addition to increasing commuter traffic into Oxford and by creating new junctions on the A40 – for access to the Garden Village itself, the ‘science park’, Park and Ride, and Eynsham’s new western ‘spine road’ – it will cause local and regional traffic chaos, and increase air pollution.
3. While the Garden Village is being built (over several years), the new homes will put intolerable strain on Eynsham’s educational and medical facilities, and make traffic and parking in the village far more difficult.
4. When the Garden Village has been built, if it has good shopping and other facilities, these may compete directly with Eynsham. If the facilities are not good, the strain on Eynsham will continue.
5. It will cut off Eynsham residents’ access to the countryside to the north, forcing people to walk through an urban extension before reaching it. (The same thing will happen with the western extension to Eynsham.)
6. Despite all the Council’s and developer’s claims, it will destroy the rich biodiversity north of the A40, much of it almost unique in West Oxfordshire.
7. It will destroy many acres of valuable farmland that have been farmed non-intensively for decades, if not centuries. In one area of the site an ancient medieval village, abandoned during the plague, has yet to be explored.
8. It will increase the risk of flooding in the area. Part of the Garden Village site already floods regularly. Urban sprawl will increase the risk of flood water being diverted towards Eynsham.
9. It will not be a Garden Village. Garden Villages are supposed to be entirely separate, self-sustaining, and not dormitory suburbs. This one will be just 100 metres from Eynsham and is being designed as an extension of Oxford’s housing market.
10. It seems that West Oxfordshire District Council and the developers have long-term plans to fill in all the land between Eynsham, Freeland and Church Hanborough with new houses. We must stop this madness now. Local infrastructure cannot take it.

Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign (EPIC)

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