

STOP THE RAT RUN, SAVE OUR GREEN SPACES

Planning permission is being sought to build up to 150 town houses in the Bayswater Farm field at the bottom of Sandhills. All previous attempts to build large scale on this lovely field have met with planning rejections, quoted below, as it is “**unsuitable for development despite the demand for houses**”

“Existing residential roads leading to and from the site are inadequate and the number of vehicles likely to be generated would adversely affect residential amenities” (quoted from 1973 and 1989)

“We will seek to conserve and enhance the HIGH QUALITY of landscape and protect its character & appearance” “A substantial part is within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, historically designated in 1949 & development would be detrimental to local amenities”. (1961, 1973 & 1989)

There would be an unquantifiable loss of amenity for the numbers of people who regularly use the attractive bridle path and benefit from the view (1989)

Burdell Ave, Sandhills will be the **SOLE TRAFFIC ENTRANCE** to the new estate. The **SOLE TRAFFIC EXIT** will be **at Hawke’s Close, onto the Bayswater Farm Rd in Barton**. This **OPENS UP A ONE WAY RAT RUN FROM THE A40**, from Sandhills to Barton & the North, to avoid the Green Rd Roundabout.

The main route for children walking from Barton to Sandhill’s school to avoid A40 traffic fumes, is along the bridle way and in to Burdell Ave. **They will be in danger of heavy oncoming traffic as will other children going to the school**. HGV’s and at least 300 cars will enter the site a few metres from a Home for Independent Living, **disrupting the peace and security of residents**, threatening their confidence and outdoor safety. **Bayswater Farm Road will become traffic choked**.

Sandhills now has *fewer* amenities e.g. no park or shop. **GREATLY INCREASED CAR TRAFFIC & HGV’S entering our streets will endanger residents, especially school children. The desecration of our only green space and the bridle path for walking and relaxation, along with the increased noise and air pollution, will affect both physical and mental health AND DESTROY WELLBEING.**

PROTECT NATURAL HABITATS! David Attenborough’s film “**EXTINCTION**” showed **the natural habitats of our wildlife are being destroyed at an alarming rate** with the loss of 90% of wetlands and grassland. The concreting of our field will not only result in lost carbon capture, but also the loss of species that live there, in the woods and in the protected Bayswater Brook. **Urbanisation, traffic noise, light pollution and footfall this close to woodland WILL DESTROY WILDLIFE**. A **quarter of mammals and nearly half of birds are at risk of extinction (2019 State of Nature report)** with the loss of hedgehogs, hares and bat habitats, destroyed, for example, by house building. The alternative access “solution” to the site – “**THE LINK ROAD**” - **WOULD BE EVEN MORE DISASTROUS ENVIRONMENTALLY**, sandwiching the woodlands and brook between a busy access road to the A40 and the new development crossing the brook into our field over wetlands, **turning Sandhills into a traffic island**.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? Oxon County Council currently opposes this development, but could change their mind. **URGENTLY WRITE, in your own words to your MP & to ALL OXON County Councillors - Contact the council | Oxfordshire County Council** Also write to **SODC** <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk> and to **Oxford City Councillors** <https://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk> stating this plan is **AGAINST planning laws & biodiversity**. **CREATE** posters of our threatened species for windows, streets and along the bridle way. **SEND PICTURES** to councillors, to the press and to all **SOCIAL MEDIA contacts**, link up with environmental protest groups. **ORGANISE** a socially distanced family demo with masks of threatened creatures or of running RATS for a “stop the rat run” protest, get the press & TV to come. Send letters etc to press & social media on why it matters to you and your wellbeing. Make banners for the top of Sandhills & of Barton. Share great protest ideas! **PUT UP THE POSTER OVERLEAF IN YOUR WINDOW! Act Now!**

For more info & campaign updates or to share ideas and info please message:
savebayswaterfarmfield@gmail.com or <https://www.facebook.com/SaveOurSandhillsGreenBelt/>