NPPF - Henley on Thames proposals

With regard to your letters dated 12 and 23 April, my comments are as follows:

I consider the proposals for Henley fall short on several of the points mentioned in the above framework. Notably:

Core planning principles (17) fifth paragraph (principle Achieving sustainable development, point 7 A Social Role. - The present proposals do not meet the needs of the present and future generations

in that no provision appears to have been made for housing senior members of our community in their future years (which would release existing properties for growing families, and provide employment in respect of care for the older generation). The Minister states "we must house a rising population, which is living longer and wants to make new choices". The "bigger picture" surely needs consideration. I feel, at the moment that this is not the case.

Also in point 7 - an environmental role - how can we protect and enhance our environment when the proposals for relatively large development in one part of Henley will produce more traffic problems on roads leading to the town centre and will lead to worse traffic jams in the centre of Henley and therefore more pollution. Henley already has serious traffic problems.

Section 23 - "Ensuring the vitality of the town centre". How will Henley fare bearing in mind the lack of parking and existing traffic problems.

Another point I would make is that Henley is bordered on one side by the river Thames. Have any communications taken place with Berkshire County/Wokingham regarding developing land on the Berkshire side of the river? Is this a possibility without losing any recreational areas?

The Minister states "sustainable development is about change for the better". The existing proposals for Henley would indicate otherwise.

At the present time it would appear the proposals contained in South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework Core Strategy Examination are not consistent with national policy.

Therefore, the Core Strategy most certainly does not reflect the presumption in favour of sustainable development in the NPPF.

Kind regards

J Haywood