

# CUDDESDON AND DENTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

## APPENDIX D

### SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

#### 1. Summary

- 1.1 The sustainability analysis identifies as key issues: the protection and expansion of green infrastructure and diverse habitats; the provision of affordable housing for those with a connection to the village; the need to design energy efficient buildings adapted to future climates; the lack of sustainable travel options to local services and to Oxford and the threats to the character of the settlements posed by inappropriate development and a possible Expressway.

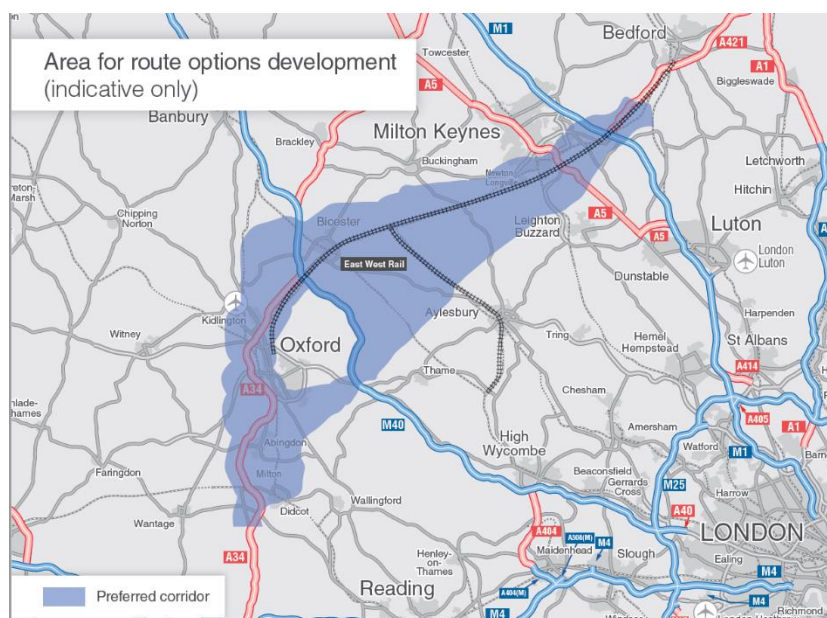
#### 2. Introduction

- 2.1 All Neighbourhood Plans are required to consider whether they need to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This process is known as 'screening'. South Oxfordshire District Council has determined that an SEA is not required for our plan.
- 2.2 However it is important to consider environmental and sustainability issues within the plan. Therefore in this Appendix, we take the key sustainability issues that are normally considered in this process and use them as a framework to develop our own sustainability objectives. They are:
- Biodiversity and green infrastructure
  - Population and community
  - Health and wellbeing
  - Transport and accessibility
  - Land use, geology and soils
  - Water
  - Air quality
  - Climate change
  - Cultural heritage
  - Landscape and townscape.
- 2.3 We have not included the issue of material assets since this relates to waste, recycling and mineral resources, which are outside the scope of this plan.

### 3. Baseline Information

- 3.1 Relevant baseline information is set out in the Plan itself – Chapter 4 The Character Assessment – and in the accompanying documents:
- Appendix A – Evidence base
  - Appendix B – Landscape Character Assessment
  - Appendix C – Assessment of cycling route to Oxford through Horspath.
- 3.2 Using this information, we have developed a Sustainability SWOT<sup>1</sup> analysis for the village in Table 2.
- 3.3 The SWOT analysis recognises a number of external threats:
- Climate change
  - Proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway
  - Possible relaxing of green belt policies.
- 3.4 Whilst tackling climate change requires global co-operation, it is possible to include some mitigation and adaptation measures in the plan.
- 3.5 In September 2018, the Government announced the preferred corridors for route options development for the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway, shown in Figure 1. Corridor B3 passes south east of Oxford and includes Cuddesdon.
- 3.6 Transport issues are outside the scope of a Neighbourhood Plan but it needs to recognise the impact that such a road would have on the character of the village, the local habitats and the surrounding landscape.

**Figure 1 – Preferred corridors for route options development**



<https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway/>  
Accessed 8 November 2018

<sup>1</sup> SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

- 3.7 The Green Belt has protected Cuddesdon and Denton and the surrounding countryside from inappropriate development. We are concerned at the possibility that the rules might be relaxed at some time in the future in order to accommodate new developments, as is happening elsewhere in the county.

## 4. Sustainability Objectives

- 4.1 Table 1 below summaries sustainability objectives taken from Table 2:

**Table 1 – Sustainability Issues and Objectives**

<b>Sustainability Issue</b>	<b>Objective</b>
Biodiversity and green infrastructure	To protect and expand green infrastructure and the different habitats in the parish so as to enhance biodiversity.
Population and community	To encourage the provision of affordable housing within the capacity of the village.  To ensure any new developments are physically integrated with village; energy efficient and designed for future climates.
Health and wellbeing	To support and maintain communal village infrastructure.
Transport and accessibility	To encourage the development of sustainable transport modes to shops, work and services.  To ensure adequate parking provision in any new development
Land use, geology and soils	To ensure new development is within village boundary to protect existing farmland and jobs.
Water	To protect aquatic habitats from pollution so as to enhance biodiversity.
Climate change	To ensure new developments are energy efficient and adapted to heatwaves. And to encourage use of renewable energy.  To avoid any developments in the flood plain.
Cultural heritage	To conserve and enhance the village's character and setting, in particular its heritage assets, listed and unlisted.
Landscape and townscape	To conserve and enhance the character of the surrounding open countryside and to maintain the far-reaching views.

**Table 1 – Sustainability SWOT Analysis for Cuddesdon and Denton**

<b>Cuddesdon &amp; Denton SWOT</b>		<b>Sustainability objectives</b>
<b>Biodiversity and green infrastructure</b>		
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland habitat along Thame fringes supporting range of wetland birds, including grey heron and little egret.</li> <li>• Lark-friendly farming.</li> <li>• Presence of kites, muntjac and roe deer, badger and fox.</li> <li>• RTCT creation of scrapes in Chippinghurst.</li> <li>• Ancient and Semi-Natural Woodland and Ancient Replanted Woodland in Coombe Wood.</li> <li>• Extensive network of formal and informal footpaths.</li> </ul>	To protect and expand green infrastructure and the different habitats in the parish so as to enhance biodiversity.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of habitat through removal of some hedges.</li> </ul>	
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat creation through new planting.</li> <li>• Greater adoption of agri-environment schemes.</li> </ul>	
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further loss of habitat through climate change, inappropriate development or farming practice.</li> <li>• Possible expressway through the parish would lead to a major loss of habitat.</li> <li>• Impact of unmanaged dog walking on biodiversity.</li> </ul>	
<b>Population and community</b>		
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An attractive rural community with wonderful views.</li> <li>• Historic relationship with the church.</li> <li>• Some local employment – the College and the Pub.</li> </ul>	To encourage the provision of affordable housing within the capacity of the village.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of public transport</li> <li>• Lack of services – shop, surgery, library etc.</li> <li>• Unable to provide sufficient new housing within the village for natural growth. House prices and rents unaffordable to many, particularly young who have to move away to find housing.</li> </ul>	To ensure any new developments are physically integrated with village; energy efficient and designed for future climates.

<b>Cuddesdon &amp; Denton SWOT</b>		<b>Sustainability objectives</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent and proposed new developments not physically integrated with village (eg Runcie building and Dove House Farm)</li> </ul>	
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible brownfield land for development of rural exception sites for affordable community housing.</li> <li>Use Neighbourhood Plan to promote high quality, sustainable new buildings physically integrated with village.</li> <li>Need to improve energy efficiency of existing housing stock.</li> </ul>	
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate change – flash floods have affected Denton. Housing stock not designed for heatwaves.</li> <li>Possibility of expressway already blighting village.</li> </ul>	
<b>Health and wellbeing</b>		
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive footpaths enabling greater enjoyment of views and open countryside, as well as exercise.</li> <li>Green spaces – recreation ground and college field.</li> <li>Church, village pub and village hall.</li> <li>Social activities (eg village hall programme, fireworks).</li> </ul>	To support and maintain communal village infrastructure.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No facilities in village</li> </ul>	
Opportunities		
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible expressway could deter people from using footpaths.</li> </ul>	
<b>Transport and accessibility</b>		
Strengths		To encourage the development of sustainable transport modes to shops, work and services.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor road maintenance</li> <li>Insufficient parking space on Denton Hill, Cuddesdon High Street and The Green</li> <li>Shops and other community facilities not viable because small community.</li> </ul>	

<b>Cuddesdon &amp; Denton SWOT</b>		<b>Sustainability objectives</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No sustainable transport – no public transport and no direct safe cycling route to Oxford</li> <li>Incomplete coverage of fibre broadband and gas.</li> </ul>	<p>To support the development of local business including homeworking within the capacity of the village.</p> <p>To ensure adequate parking provision in any new development.</p>
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use of broadband to facilitate home working and reduced travel</li> <li>Creation of safe cycling route through Horspath to Oxford</li> <li>Need to encourage switch to electric cars as a more sustainable form of transport, particularly shared cars to increase access.</li> </ul>	
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local government funding cuts coupled with increased traffic results in greater deterioration of roads.</li> </ul>	
<b>Land use, geology and soils</b>		
Strengths		<p>To ensure new development is within village boundary to protect existing farmland and jobs.</p>
Weaknesses		
Opportunities		
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of agricultural land (and employment) to new development or possible expressway</li> </ul>	
<b>Water</b>		
Strengths		<p>To protect aquatic habitats from pollution so as to enhance biodiversity.</p>
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local watercourses polluted by high nitrates.</li> </ul>	
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater use of agri-environment schemes</li> </ul>	
Threats		
<b>Air quality</b>		
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open countryside therefore good air quality</li> </ul>	

<b>Cuddesdon &amp; Denton SWOT</b>		<b>Sustainability objectives</b>
Weaknesses		
Opportunities		
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible expressway could lead to deterioration of air quality</li> </ul>	
<b>Climate change</b>		
Strengths		To ensure new developments are energy efficient and adapted to heatwaves. And to encourage use of renewable energy.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Houses not designed for prolonged heatwaves.</li> </ul>	
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility of reducing running costs by increasing energy efficiency of buildings and use of renewable energy</li> </ul>	To avoid any developments in the flood plain.
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main threats are increased flooding and prolonged heatwaves.</li> </ul>	
<b>Cultural heritage</b>		
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage buildings and their settings and views.</li> </ul>	To conserve and enhance the village's character and setting, in particular its heritage assets, listed and unlisted.
Weaknesses		
Opportunities		
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible expressway could destroy the setting, as could relaxing the Green Belt policies.</li> </ul>	
<b>Landscape and townscape</b>		
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Far reaching views over open countryside with dark night skies.</li> <li>• Green spaces – recreation ground and college field.</li> </ul>	To conserve and enhance the character of the surrounding open countryside and to maintain the far-reaching views.
Weaknesses		
Opportunities		

<b>Cuddesdon &amp; Denton SWOT</b>		<b>Sustainability objectives</b>
Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Possible expressway could destroy the views over open countryside and dark night skies, as could relaxing the Green Belt policies.</li></ul>	