

I'm just back from the Lowlands Planning Committee meeting where, I'm pleased to report, the application for 100 + houses was refused. It was a unanimous decision and very interesting as there was much discussion on the amount of weight that could / should be attached to the local plan. It seems that a decision on the plan is imminent, to the point where one of the members suggested a deferment might be sensible. Phil Shaw's view was that the proposal was so poor that it couldn't even get over the lowest hurdle and there were many valid grounds for refusal. He felt that too much reliance on the local plan could be counter productive should the outcome (that there is demonstrable adequate housing supply in evidence in West Oxfordshire) be other than as expected. Again, WODC seem confident that they have more than adequate grounds to contest any appeal, so it will be interesting to see if the developers decide it's something worth throwing more money at.

Andy Bateson, the STAND committee consultant, and I both spoke in favour of refusal, there was no input from the developers, although I recognised at least one of their people there.