

Councillors

I've done this more times since last July last than I ever imagined I would. I have a new regard for what you do here – the reading is vast, the detail is huge, but the ramifications for future residents is massive.

You have before you two very different visions of Oundle – what would it be like to live in either in 2031?

The preferred vision of your planning department (credit where due – they've stuck with it through thick and thin) has well known problems, evidenced in the reports in front of you. 260+ residents live next to an expanded sewage works, ruining your decision to place their back gardens 154 metres away from active sewage tanks. They're trapped inside on lovely summers evenings, as the smell of excrement floods over them. They can't safely walk their children to school over the dangerous crossing on a blind corner, so feel forced to drive them, causing other parents untold grief with their illegal parking.

Another 200+ residents breathe in the fumes of over 22,000+ vehicles that use the A605 daily, 10% of them HGVs, running just a few metres from their gardens. They're sucking in hydrocarbons, nitrogen oxide, brake and tyre particulates. The noise for some are over the maximum levels permitted by the WHO. They're concerned that the next heavy rains will flood them out again, and when there'll be a recurrence of that challenging toilet backflow issue when the sewage pipes fail. Getting out is a nightmare – with car parks in Oundle

now disappearing, the narrow roads are full of parked cars and heavy traffic.

The preferred vision of many in Oundle has 100+ residents living near Prince William, overlooking the beautiful Nene valley, listening to the sound of leather on willow from the town's new cricket pitches, which has allowed more development near the town centre. And another 250+ residents live in the beautifully raised rural environment, near the town's main sports facility and on the regular X4 bus route to Corby, Peterborough, and Oundle's shops and cafes. Two cycle routes connect them right to the Primary School and town centre, encouraging fewer cars on the roads.

Which vision makes North Northamptonshire a more desirable place to live?

According to [page 24 your DLP Site Assessments](#) the second. Site 220 (Benefield Road) scores very highly (2nd in fact) and if mistakes and misassumption from March 2019's scoring are corrected, site 221b, Herne Road scores highest of all. Both easily beat the three options recommended in your report.

Oundle accepts we will get more housing, but it must be in the best location for future residents. I hope, I pray, that you are willing to use the evidence you have to change the recommendation, that the best (not the easiest) sites go into the Plan, even if it drags your process slightly. I understand the desire to get the Local Plan "done" – but it must be done right.