



By Email

2nd March 2016

John Cotton
Leader of SODC

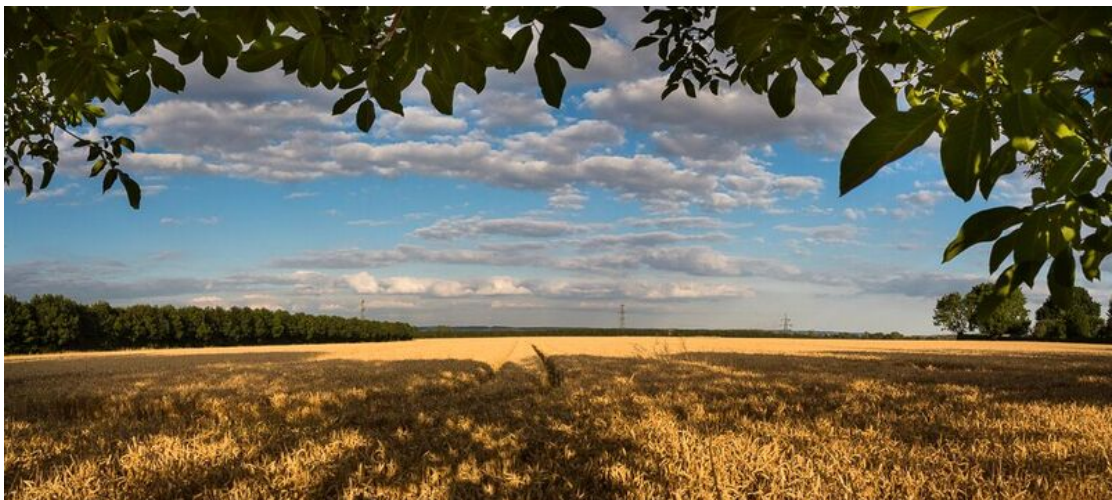
Dear John,

Re: Planning Application P15/S3228/O

Today's Didcot Herald carries an editorial entitled: "Reasons to be cheerful, but balance must be maintained."

It is based on the report that South Oxfordshire is Britain's happiest rural community.

We all have our favourite locations in the District. We learn that for you it's the Clumps. For many among the c600 residents who have responded to the above planning application, it is The Green Gap. You can see why below.



The editorial concludes: "As Didcot grows rapidly, council leaders must ensure that they maintain the balance between town and country. If too much green space is

eaten up by housing developments, South Oxfordshire may not remain Britain's happiest rural community for long."

We are writing to you in your role as Leader of the Council and copying Anna given her strategic management responsibility for planning and policy to ensure that this **proper balance** – a most pertinent concept in planning terms - is maintained.

We appreciate that you (and indeed Anna) are legally prevented from having sway over the determination of individual applications.

Equally, we cannot believe that you will simply fiddle whilst Rome starts to burn. This was the point we were making in our address to Cabinet. There is an imperative and a responsibility to set the expectation, standard and agenda for planning in our District. If all your good work on Garden Towns and devolution bids etc is not going to go to waste we must all be supported by **Visionary Planning, Brave Planning, Skilled Planning** from our own planning service.

And that is what we're asking for here. If we get it, Didcot and East Hagbourne will surely be happy.

Kind regards,

Nick

CC:

Anna Robinson, SODC
Ed Vaizey, MP
Jane Murphy, SODC
Adrian Duffield, SODC
Andy Barmer, MTGG