

# The Eynsham Society

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Hon. Sec.: Jolyon Cox 108 Spareacre Lane, Eynsham, Witney, Oxon OX29 4NP  
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Minerals & Waste Core Strategy Consultation  
Environment & Economy  
Planning Regulation (Minerals & Waste)  
Oxfordshire County Council  
Speedwell House, Speedwell Street  
Oxford OX1 1NE.  
(via e-mail)

25~~8~~<sup>9</sup>th September 2015

Dear Sirs,

I write on behalf of the Eynsham Society, an amenity and environmental group which seeks to protect and enhance the environment of the village of Eynsham.

The Society's comments on, and objections to, the proposed Core Strategy submission are for the most part covered by the report prepared for OXAGE (of which the Society is a sponsor) by Gardner Planning Ltd., which you will have received under separate cover.

However, we wish to comment additionally on sections 4.27 to 4.35. Notwithstanding the general issues raised in the report concerning the legality and soundness of the Core Strategy submission, and the specific objections to these sections, we strongly endorse the concerns raised in section 4.28 regarding the adverse impact on local communities, and on the environment, of the present rate and intensity of mineral working in West Oxfordshire. We also endorse the statement in section 4.30 that *"This means changing the balance of production capacity between the strategic resource areas in western Oxfordshire (mainly in West Oxfordshire District) and southern Oxfordshire (in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Districts), even though remaining resources of sharp sand and gravel are more extensive in West Oxfordshire"* and the conclusions drawn therefrom. Given the excessive extraction to date in West Oxfordshire, the overestimation of ongoing requirements, the existing reserves at Gill Mill and Cassington, and the logistical difficulties of transporting minerals in an area with poor roads and no rail infrastructure, we believe that the new Plan should rule out the opening of any new extraction sites in West Oxfordshire during the period to be covered, and we object to this omission.

We note also the appalling state of the extraction site at Cassington, where there appears to be little hope that promised remediation work (and thus return of any amenity to the community) will ever be performed, and we believe that the Plan should provide for remediation to be performed in future by a reliable third party using funds deposited in escrow by mineral extraction companies.

Because of the objections raised in the OXAGE report to the legality and soundness of the Core Strategy submission, we wish to be represented in person at the Examination in Public, and to be informed when the Core Strategy is submitted for examination, when the Inspector's report is published and when the Core Strategy is adopted or rejected.

Yours faithfully,

(signed)

Jolyon Cox  
Hon Sec., The Eynsham Society.