

COLD ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Constituted 4 December 1894

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COLD ASH PARISH COUNCIL

Laila Bassett
Principal Planning Officer
Planning Policy
Development and Regulation
West Berkshire Council
Market Street
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 5LD

22nd December 2023

Dear Laila,

Thank you for offering to send a joint response to the examiner, combining our comments on the fact-check version of his report, which we believe is in order, as you are now managing the process to a conclusion.

We, Cold Ash Parish Council, are content that the report is factually correct and are prepared to make the changes to our plan that the examiner has requested.

We are disappointed that the examiner requested that we remove the pictorial representation of the green gaps from the plan but cannot argue with the conclusion that having them cover a different area than those represented in the Local Plan is confusing. As he doesn't have jurisdiction over the Local Plan, this appears to have been the only option open to him. We do not believe the change affects the position in any way and take comfort from the fact that the examiner has highlighted that Policy DM2, in the Local Plan, includes provision to preserve the gaps between Newbury and Thatcham, between Thatcham and Cold Ash and between Thatcham and Ashmore Green, as we believe this, together with our Policy CAP1, provides a solid basis on which to challenge any proposed development between the settlement boundaries that would result in coalescence and/or urban creep, irrespective of the mapping in the plans.

We thank you for your support in enabling us to get our plan to this critical point and look forward to working with you and the WBC in a positive and productive way going forward.

Best regards,

Ivor McArdle
Vice-Chair, Cold Ash Parish Council and Chair, Cold Ash NDP Steering Group
On behalf of Cold Ash Parish Council