

Charlbury Neighbourhood Plan 2031

Response to Consultation Representation by the Beacon Project submitted by Alistair Ross

We acknowledge the representation made on behalf of the Beacon Project. We thank the Beacon Project for their engagement with the Regulation 14 consultation process and for the matters raised which have been given careful consideration during the revision of the draft plan, ahead of submission to West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC).

We welcome the support for the plan and recognition that the most important issues regarding development in the town have been addressed. We recognise the work that has been done by the Beacon Project in making available affordable housing for local families, which helps to address the issues of maintaining a balanced population profile and providing accommodation for those employed locally to support the town's role as a rural service centre. The benefits of projects such as the Rushy Bank Housing scheme, supported by the Beacon Project, are recognised in the footnote to the conclusions and challenges in the housing section (page 27 footnote 18). We acknowledge that to remain a thriving community there is a need to provide accommodation such as this, which is affordable for those who are working locally. The recognition for the need to provide housing stock available below market prices in perpetuity is welcomed.

Although there are several constraints to development as explained in Section 5 it is appreciated that sites such as those considered as Rural Exception sites may come forward and could contribute to the provision of affordable housing. As indicated in Policy CH4, well-designed development proposals on such sites would be supported in principle provided that they are consistent with national, local and other Neighbourhood Plan policies, give priority to those with a local connection and remain affordable in perpetuity. Finally, Policy CH8 relating to the subdivision of properties can help to address the issue of residents looking to downsize.