

MAGDALEN COLLEGE AND ITS PARTNERS ARE ASKING US WHAT WE THINK ABOUT THE PROPOSED 'SOUTH OXFORD SCIENCE PARK', A HUGE URBAN EXTENSION INTO THE GREEN BELT

WE THINK IT IS UNACCEPTABLE AND UNJUSTIFIABLE AND SHOULD BE SCRAPPED

WHY?

They are targeting the Oxford Green Belt, open countryside which it is essential to protect for the benefit of the whole of Oxford and particularly for people who live in the Leys and the surrounding villages.

Although Oxford is short of houses, there is plenty of space left within the City for the kind of houses people actually need.

This development will not reduce housing need as it will not create the truly affordable housing so badly needed and it seeks to create new employment to attract yet more people into the City.

The developers, Magdalen College with £180 million in the bank and Thames Water, a company worth £6 billion, hardly need the money they are seeking to gain at the expense of our heritage and countryside.

We suggest you don't play along with their game by suggesting improvements to their scheme, but just tell them to scrap it altogether.

The Facts

What's the problem?

- **Loss of countryside on your doorstep** – where will local people exercise and get fresh air?
- **Air pollution** – residents of Greater Leys already suffer some of the worst ill health caused by air pollution; this urban extension seems likely to increase air pollution around Greater Leys.
- **Traffic** – an urban extension to the south of the City will mean thousands more people trying to get down the Cowley Road to shop and work in the City centre each day.
- **Harm to Oxford City** – the City is unsuitable for expansion on this scale; it will harm the City's economy which relies on tourism and being an attractive place to work and live.
- **Local villages under threat** – the City Council has long held ambitions to expand its administrative boundary to include surrounding villages in South Oxfordshire; many local parishes want to remain within South Oxfordshire.

Why is the Green Belt important?

- The Green Belt is designed to stop urban sprawl out into the open countryside, to provide a 'green lung' for city residents to enjoy for recreation and well-being, and to protect the historic City of Oxford.
- The Green Belt around the city is protected and can only be built on in 'exceptional circumstances'; this development does not meet these exceptional circumstances.

Who benefits?

- Private wealthy landowner, Magdalen College

and its partners, are set to make millions from using their land for development (with a financial endowment of £180.8 million – Magdalen at least doesn't need the money).

The developer promises to provide 'some affordable housing', ie, some housing at 80% of the market value; this won't meet the real needs of local residents. To be truly affordable, housing will have to be built at much higher densities than will be proposed at this site.

What's the alternative?

- Oxford City Council says it doesn't have the room to build the houses in the centre of the city, yet for decades it has used spare land for commercial use rather than housing.
- Building at a higher density than the standard 30 homes per hectare would mean more houses on less land. Much, if not all, of the new housing could be built on sites already put aside for development in the City, such as Osney Mead. This would protect our Green Belt and also help make the houses cheaper.
- The proposed development lies in South Oxfordshire; South Oxfordshire District Council is opposed to the urban extension and is looking for more sustainable locations outside the Green Belt.

What can I do?

Don't let wealthy landowners take over your Green Belt at the expense of your family and friends' health and well-being, your local countryside, and the future prosperity of Oxford. Please help us to protect it for generations to come.

Make your voice heard!

Join hundreds of others in objecting to this proposal at:

oxfordsciencevillage.com/your-feedback

Join our Campaign to Save the Oxford Green Belt

Find out more: cprexon.org.uk/campaigns

Donate via JustGiving at:

tinyurl.com/SavetheOxfordGreenBelt

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