



Planning for Real **NEED** not Speculator **GREED** in Oxfordshire

PRESS RELEASE

27 April 2017

Oxfordshire's

Party Political Leaders agree: the planning system needs fixing

All the Party Political Leaders in Oxfordshire agree that the national planning system - the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - is broken and needs fixing.

There is also consensus among the main parties in the county that there should be a return to a Plan-led planning system.

Leaders are also broadly in favour of the idea of Land Value Capture - to enable the funding of infrastructure and to bring house prices down.

And all Leaders want to see a return to robust planning for Oxfordshire as a whole.

In the run up to the local County Council elections on 4 May, the Need not Greed Oxfordshire (NNGO) coalition [1] held meetings with all the Leaders of the main political parties in the county. [2]

NNGO believe Oxfordshire is facing a planning crisis, and so we wanted to know what the Leaders plan to do to fix this.

Helena Whall, Campaign Manager for the coalition said: "For over a year now, Need not Greed Oxfordshire has been calling for changes to the national planning system to ensure local-decision making takes priority, not greedy developers, and that the value of land allocated for development is captured for the public benefit.

"We have also been calling for a return to a Plan-led system, so large developers and land owners are no longer able to dictate where, when and what kind of houses should be built.

"And importantly, we have been arguing for a return to robust planning for Oxfordshire as a whole, including a county-wide Structure Plan, open to full public scrutiny and ongoing public engagement.

“So we are really pleased to hear that our Leaders are beginning to listen to their constituents’ concerns and are gradually coming round to our way of thinking.

“However, we are disappointed that there remains dispute over the current growth plans for the county - which we believe are unrealistic and unachievable.

“Disappointingly, some leaders also remain committed to the concept of Oxford/Oxfordshire as the most appropriate location for a growth hub, with all its attendant pressures on our local communities, services, transport system and environment.

“Oxfordshire towns and villages are being swamped with large-scale inappropriate developments that are overwhelming services and infrastructure and introducing irreversible changes to our environment. Crucially, we are failing to build the right houses in the right places and at the right prices.

“Need not Greed Oxfordshire will continue to engage with the Leaders of the main political parties, our MPs and other local decision-makers to impress upon them the urgent need to tackle our planning crisis.”

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

[1] Need not Greed Oxfordshire is a coalition of 33 local organisations and individuals from around the county campaigning for a future for Oxfordshire which meets the real needs of local people not speculator greed. See: www.neednotgreedoxon.org.uk

[2] Coalition members met with Cllr. Ian Hudspeth (Leader, Conservative Party), Cllr. Liz Brighthouse (Leader, Labour Party), Cllr. Richard Webber (Leader, Liberal Democrats) and Cllr. David Williams (Leader Green Party).

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