Oddington Parish Council objects to the Stow-on-the Wold Neighbourhood Plan on the grounds that it fails to meet the ‘basic conditions’ set out in the legislation.

The proposed housing development to the rear of Tesco’s is major development in the Cotswolds National Landscape but the NDP fails to demonstrate the necessary exceptional circumstances and the development is not in the public interest.

The Local Plan is on track to deliver the required 5 year land supply. The housing expected to be provided in Stow has been met and is expected to be exceeded by 59 homes. The NDP proposal for 170 additional homes would more than double the dwellings anticipated at Stow over the Local Plan period. There is no demonstrable need for open market housing and the affordable housing need will be met by the recent planning approval for the site on Oddington Road.

The site of the proposed new development is located within the AONB/National Landscape and is on productive Grade 3 agricultural land. It would be highly visible as it is very open to the north, south and east, with wide sweeping views across the Cotswolds landscape towards Oddington, Adlestrop, Cornwell, Chastleton and Kingham.

The NDP does not promote a sustainable pattern of development that aligns growth and infrastructure. It does nothing to improve the environment, reduce travel or mitigate climate change. The proposals would materially worsen traffic congestion on the main roads leading into, and through Stow, particularly in the peak periods, resulting in a harmful impact upon the vital tourist trade but also upon residents and businesses in the town and surrounding villages. Further harm will be caused to business by the reduction of available parking in the Town Square which will discourage locals from surrounding villages using the town for essential services.

The NDP should not proceed further without significant revisions to address the conflict with national policies and advice, conform with the Local Plan and contribute towards sustainable development.