



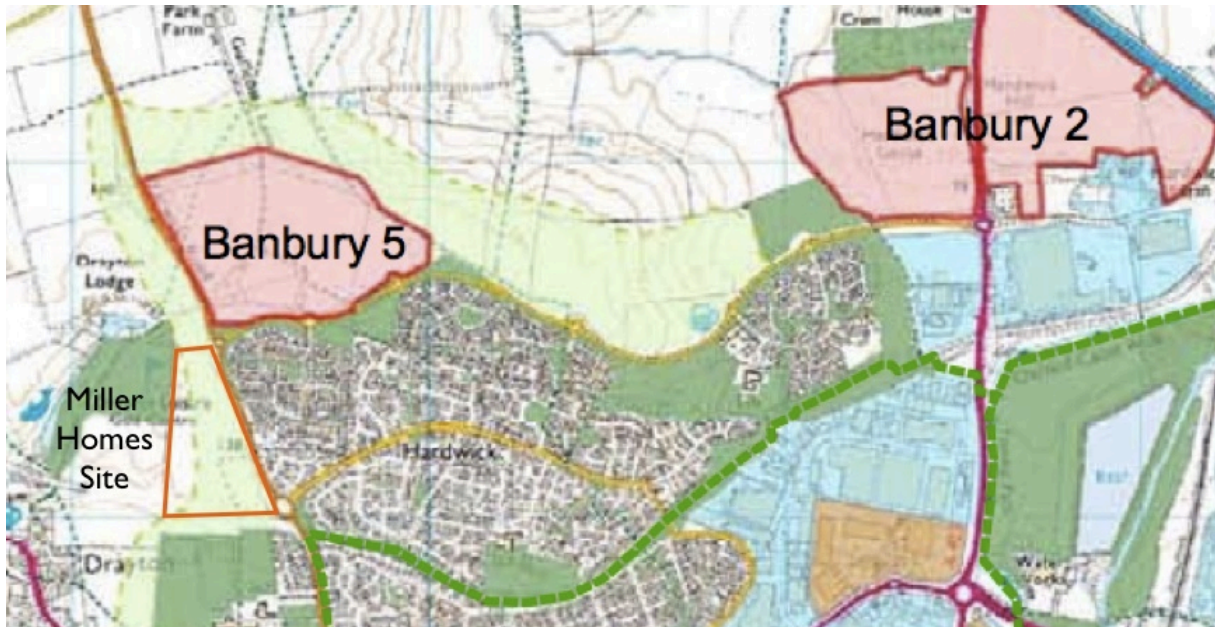
Cherwell must build the homes we need

In an absolutely fascinating announcement, after the development site at West Warwick Road, Banbury was removed from the Local Plan 2012 - a move widely supported by Cllr Nicholas Turner whose golf course adjoins the land - Miller homes is now showcasing a development for 300 homes (90 of which would be affordable homes) on the site and is holding a consultation on 7 & 8th December 2012 in Banbury town hall.

Cherwell District Council have shown before their lack of control and clear decision making about the future building of homes in Banbury, with projected numbers way out of line with market reality, plainly wrong calculations of the sites needed and their ability to swap and change ideas month after month, giving considerable anxiety to nearby communities who have been forced to fight for their rights. Their policy just encourages 'land grabs' by developers who are not interested in building homes, but just in increasing the asset values for their land.

But Hanwell Fields Development Action Group thinks the development proposed by Miller homes at West Warwick Road is a reasonable one, and will mean that CDC can now go ahead and remove their proposals for development at North Hanwell Fields

(BAN5) and Southam Road (BAN2), and re-enforce the principle that the northern boundary of Banbury is at Dukes Meadow Drive. [When the existing Hanwell Fields estate was developed a 1997 Design Brief made it very clear that this would be the northern boundary of Banbury and not encroach further in green belt or threaten the local Hanwell village.]



The development will however place a strong threat to Dukes Meadow Drive with increased traffic across to employment areas, and this will mean proper speed controls and possible 20MPH speed limits will have to be imposed through the Hanwell Fields estate to prevent accidents and noise problems. Residents of Hanwell Fields are already concerned by the excessive speeding of cars through the estate and any increase in fast traffic would be unacceptable.

Sir Tony Baldry has recently strongly supported HFDAG and told CDC they had clearly enough land approved for housing in the next 5 years (at the Bankside I site for over 1000 homes, none of which have yet been built). But, he suggested, HFDAG should support alternative sites if the BAN5 and BAN2 sites were to be removed from the council's plans. To get dynamism into the development of the town the Canalside site for 1050 homes must also attract developers and go ahead.

HDAG wants the northern areas recognised as public open space and as a true green boundary to the town stretching right across from the Warwick road to the the M40

motorway and joining up to the proposed recreation park to the east of the M40.

HFDAG encourage as many people as possible to attend the exhibition of Miller Homes on 7th Dec 2012 in Banbury Town Hall and express their views on the development.