

**A QUESTION FOR THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

On 4<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the Planning Committee refused Planning Application WP/2013/0225/O. Refusal was also supported by Finedon Parish Council.

This Application was for the construction of three houses on land to the rear of 31 Station Road, Finedon. The land in question is presently an extension to the garden of 31 Station Road, Finedon, but until a few years ago had formed part of an adjoining agricultural field, and therefore remained outside the Village Policy Line.

On 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014, a Government Inspector upheld an appeal by the applicant.

In doing so the Inspector has overridden a most important principle of policy by in effect ignoring the Policy Line. His decision also conflicts with the decision made on an identical application by a Government Inspector in 2007.

His justification appears mainly to be that at present the Council cannot demonstrate “a five year supply of deliverable housing sites”. This is a temporary situation, whereas the proposed development will be permanent and indeed eternal.

As the Inspector’s decision appears to create a precedent for allowing development absolutely anywhere in this Borough’s open countryside, is there any action that this Council can take to challenge it and get it reversed?

**Cllr John Bailey**

