

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2019 19:55
To: [REDACTED] _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Feedback regarding proposed 2400 houses at land south and east of Sharpness and Newtown

Sir/Madam,

Having been only very recently made aware of the Local Plan Review document and in particular plans for 2400 houses at land south and east of Sharpness and Newtown, I wish to express my concerns over a number of issues associated with the plan.

Information provision by the Council.

1. The Council provided consultation and information providing process has been very inadequate in my opinion. I personally only learned of the plan from friends via Facebook (1 week before the Sharpness exhibition on Saturday 1st December 2019). I saw no other advertising about the event. I would like to know dates and locations and methods of making local people aware of this plan over the last year, can you please advise me?
2. The online survey for providing feedback is very complex and respondents require in-depth knowledge of the Local district local plan review emerging strategy document to have any hope of completing it. I feel it is quite disgraceful feedback mechanism. It seems to be designed to deter responses. Hence this email from me.
3. I would like to know how many local people who will be actually affected by the emerging strategy have been able to respond via your survey or any other method, prior to the plans going public.
4. The exhibition at Sharpness on 1st December was very lightly staffed by the Council, making it very difficult to get quality time with anyone who had any real knowledge of the plans. Had it been more widely advertised the situation would have been far worse. Was this why it was not advertised more widely?

Comments on the plan itself.

1. 2400 houses in Sharpness and Newtown are far too many in a single location. I appreciate large growth points of this type make your job far easier to meet government set targets, but the sheer scale of your plans will destroy the heart of communities and community spirit around which they are based.
2. I feel government house building targets should be more equally distributed in smaller scale amongst existing towns and villages. My view is that the infrastructure promised by both councils and developers such as schools, health centres, employment, transport etc are only ever promises at best and rarely delivered as promised at the time of planning and approval.

3. There is far too little local employment to support even a fraction of the people who would live in this development, thereby adding to traffic congestion, pollution and noise problems within the area.

4. 2400 houses alone will draw approximately 5000 cars. The daily traffic problems the Sharpness plan alone will create locally on access to the A38 and at local mway junctions (M5 J13/J14) will be unmanageable, they are already failing. In addition the M5 J18 Almondsbury M4/5 Junction will be horrendous adding to the over congestion that already exists. Also consider the additional traffic created by Wisloe and Thornbury plans. How can traffic congestion that will inevitably arise be consistent with efforts to protect the environment?

5. I fully accept houses have to be built for many reasons and also accept we all have a duty to accept and coexist with new developments. However developments should be planned so that those of us who live in rural retreats such as these are able to share the beauty of our surroundings with new builds, I vehemently do not accept that this beauty should be destroyed or sacrificed in order for you to meet your government set targets. It must be re thought.

Lastly, many local people including myself are extremely disappointed that attempts to inform us have had to come from locally motivated people with similar concerns to the above. Council driven information provision regarding this development has been extremely poor, scarce and insufficient.

I look forward to your response.

Regards


Brookend Resident.