From: ████████████████████████
Sent: 22 January 2020 12:53
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Objection to PS36 Garden Villages, Berkeley Cluster

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing with regard to the proposed local development within the Berkeley Cluster, the Garden Villages PS36. I wish to object to the proposal on the below grounds.

The scale of the proposed development is far greater than the existing or planned infrastructure can support. There is a lack of education, viable employment opportunity, commuter access and public services, both currently and in the plan, for the area to thrive with the vast increase in town size.

With no new secondary school provision planned until the second phase (after 2040) and the current schools in the area being at full capacity, I struggle to see how the children moving into 2400 homes will receive the education provision without travelling great distances. If this were the solution then road and transport links would need vast improvement.

Travel in the area currently is difficult; roads are constantly in disrepair and unfit for the frequent use of articulated lorries going to and from the dock. With thousands of extra cars using the roads, the situation will become even harder. The roads do not have the capacity to transport people to the A38, because there is no planned extension to the bypass. Bus links are virtually non-existent and if there were to be a rail link to Cam & Dursley created, the existing station's capacity would require considerable expansion. None of these issues are adequately addressed in the plan.

The location of the proposed site is poor for commuter families. It is equidistant to two motorway junctions, meaning that almost any other site in the greater area would have easier access to major road links to Bristol and Gloucester, where the majority of people would need to seek work. The proposal fails to provide adequate local employment opportunity to prevent the necessity to commute for work. This is especially concerning given the council plan to create a work 'powerhouse' north of Gloucester, and the council's previous suggestion that the Berkeley area is unsuitable for significant employment opportunity growth. The area will become clogged with traffic and pollution in a greenbelt area, close to delicate and valuable ecosystems.

The site's proximity to the Severn estuary and ecologically important flood plains is a major concern with the vast increase of pollution and land consumption generated by the proposed development. Light pollution as a result of thousands of new homes could prove a major disruption to migratory birds along the river, and thousands more people walking dogs around the area will cause problems for nesting birds. Moreover, with a high water table in the area and current reliance on flood plains bearing the brunt of increasing rainfall, the vast increase in land consumption from housing and concrete infrastructure is a great concern; flooding around homes could become a major hazard.

As a young resident of the area, having grown up in Wanswell, I fear that the local area in the near future will become unfit to raise children – lacking opportunity or adequate services to receive strong education, pursue employment opportunity, or enjoy our unique natural surroundings undamaged. The new housing development will mean children grow up in a congested, polluted and economically unviable place because there is insufficient planned provision to increase services and the current infrastructure is already incredibly stretched. Further, I fear that there will be no real effort to provide affordable housing in a working-class area of Gloucestershire.

The above comprise the most serious of my concerns about the proposed development. The size of the project is disproportionate to the size and capacity of the existing town and area. The plan does not provide any real guarantee of infrastructure improvements necessary for the development to succeed and to prevent the area becoming a sink.

Yours faithfully,

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