From: ████████████████

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To: _WEB_Local Plan

Subject: DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

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Cam – Road Congestion:

We are very concerned about the amount of new housing that is proposed for the Cam area. The development along Box Road (SA3) is already causing severe road congestion, especially during the rush-hours. This was predicted before the development went ahead, but no significant improvements have yet made – as a result, local residents are now having to endure inconvenience and delays, with particular problems at the junction between Box Road and the A4135, and along Box Road itself causing disrupted access to Cam & Dursley Station. Road improvements to address these problems are urgently required – and it is vital that further improvements are put in place before any further developments are started.

Access to Town Centres:

It is important to provide adequate free parking in or near town centres in order to attract customers to use high street shops and facilities rather than driving to out-of-town shopping malls or relying increasingly on on-line shopping. In Cam and Dursley, the large supermarkets provide significant free parking facilities for their customers, but these are becoming increasingly crowded and it seems likely that they will soon fail to meet the demand. The new car park in Long Street is welcome, but its capacity is small and spaces are often difficult to find. Central parking facilities are especially important to those unable to walk or cycle to town centres, eg because they live in rural areas too far away from the town centre or because or impaired mobility – not just those who are registered disabled but also those who have temporary impairments, have young children or are elderly. We applaud the aim of supporting an ageing population, and this is one way of providing that support.

Access to Cam & Dursley Station:

The current car parking facilities at the station are inadequate for the existing number of commuters. Hence there are always many cars parked along Box Road – often causing an obstruction that impedes buses, lorries and emergency vehicles. Moreover, it often impossible to find a parking space if travelling after the morning rush hour – which is a real disincentive for elderly people to use the train (opting instead to drive to their destination, which is hardly the most environmentally-friendly outcome). Thus. there is already a need for additional car parking spaces at the station – and this need will increase sharply as the commuting population continues to rise. It would be a mistake to introduce parking charges because that would simply result in more on-street parking – and a remote park-and-ride arrangement is unlikely to solve the problem because of the additional time that commuters would need to allow to ensure that they catch their train.

PS25 Development:

In our view, Cam is already bearing more than its fair share of new developments – and PS25 would be a step too far. It is too close to the River Cam – increasing the danger of flooding and pollution. And it is much too close to the Rackleaze wildlife area. Wildlife needs natural corridors to thrive. We note the intention to "enhance the use of Rackleaze wildlife area for leisure use", but we are concerned that such leisure activities will be at the expense of the precious wildlife that currently exists in that area. In our view, the proximity of the PS25 development would quickly ruin the special nature of the wildlife area and completely undermine its attraction.

Drake Lane from Dursley to Ashmead:

The Littlecombe development in Dursley has given rise to increased traffic along this steep and narrow road – which is also used by pedestrian, cyclists and horse-riders. Safety would be improved if more passing places were added.

Recycling:

One simple suggestion is to provide larger bins – with lids – for paper and cardboard recycling. The small open-topped bins currently provided often result in rubbish blowing around the streets on collection days.