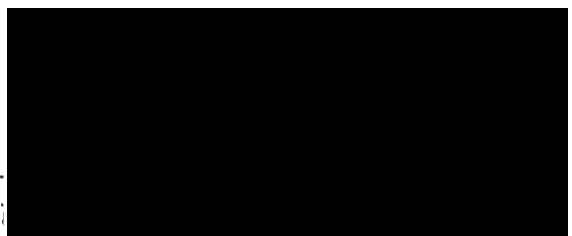


Local Plan Review
The Planning Strategy Team
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Stroud, GL5 4UB



S
Received
17 JAN 2020
Development Services

12 01 2020

Re: Draft Local Plan

Dear Sir,

When I first moved to the village of Cambridge approximately 30 years ago there were around 900 people living in the Parish of Slimbridge, Cambridge and Gossington. I chose Cambridge as I wanted to live in a rural, village community.

By 2011, the census indicated that the population had increased to around 1150. Since the census the parish population has further increased with a significant number of new properties being built on infill sites, bringing the number of homes to around 500. This increase is to be expected and will obviously continue to do so as the national population continues to grow. It is therefore reasonable to expect further small developments around the parish. However the magnitude of the Wisloe Development compared with the size of the existing parish is vast. An extra 1500 houses would mean that the number of homes in the parish would increase by a factor of 4, bringing it to 2000. Assuming 3 persons per new property, this again would increase the population of the parish by a factor of 4, i.e. 1500 to 6000. This dramatic increase in the population would put a huge strain on the parish and its infrastructure. I strongly object to this plan and list below some of the negative aspects of this ill conceived development.

Rural Community

Our rural community will be changed dramatically, destroying the very thing that makes it an attractive place to live. Surely this conflicts with the Stroud area's designation as a "Rural District".

Urban Sprawl

This development will join the parish to Cam and Dursley creating an urban sprawl. Surely this is not good planning.

Sewerage

The sewerage in the parish has caused and continues to cause problems. An additional 1500 homes would put a dramatic increase in the load on what is already a system struggling to cope.

Area of outstanding natural beauty

This sprawling "town" will be visible for miles, creating a blot on the landscape in this area of outstanding natural beauty.

Pollution

The proximity of the new properties to the M5, A38, A4135 and the railway line will mean that the new residents will have to cope with pollution which already exceeds permitted levels. These levels of both noise and atmospheric pollution are bound to increase further with the extra cars which will come with the new houses on the Wisloe development. This will be further aggravated by the cars from the developments at Cam, Berkley, Sharpness and Hardwick.

Traffic Congestion

Cam and Dursley railway station currently cannot cope from a parking point of view, which means that new residents will be forced to use their cars, further adding to the traffic congestion. The A38 is already grid locked when the M5 is closed between J13 and J14. The additional cars from the Wisloe development will only further aggravate the traffic congestion.

Ernest Cook's Trust

In order for the development to go ahead, I understand that some of the land will be purchased from the Ernest Cook's Trust. Surely the selling of agricultural land for building is in direct conflict with the Trust's aims, which state on their website are "rooted in conservation and management of the countryside".

Agricultural land classification

I understand that a survey, funded by the promoters of the development has graded the land as 3b. This seems strange in that I understand that Natural England classified it as grade 2. Surely an independent survey should be carried out to determine which is correct.

Conservation

I understand that according to the British Trust of Ornithology, highly protected birds have been sited in the area planned for development. This development will further reduce areas available to such birds.

I accept that people need places to live and some development in the parish is inevitable. However, implementing the development as proposed would have a devastating impact on the parish. It seems that 80% of the proposed Stroud

development is in the south of the district. Why can the development not be distributed evenly through out the district?. This approach would greatly reduce the impact on our parish and I urge Stroud District Council to move away from the "sprawling town", coalescence, plan, towards a distributed plan.

Yours faithfully,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area of the letter.