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Planning Strategy Team
Stroud District Council
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Review of Stroud District Local Plan

For the attention of Planning Strategy Team / The Independent Planning Inspector / Kate Crews

As a local ratepayer regarding the forthcoming local planning review I wish to bring to attention of the department the inspectorate and my local councillor Kate Crews some of my views.

*** Unused Industrial Land**

Efforts and government assistance to protect and diversify what remains of Stroud's industrial heritage by giving first choice back to industry and manufacturing with the assistance of government aid where possible.

Serving protection orders and upgrading existing protection orders on remaining mills of interest by the encouragement to adapt and re-use such premises in the interests of employment . Non heritage industrial land especially con anal and river fronting land also deserve protection against high density residential development. The exception being retail barns and supermarket / hypermarkets which presently is arguably over-catered for to the cost of a thriving Stroud town centre.

*** Local pedestrian pathways and cycleways**

Some vestiges of mediaeval , late medieaval and later tracks are still traceable in the town and surrounds . Given that much of Stroud town is pedestrianised these need to be protected to preserve the historic nature of the town for tourism particularly in upper Stroud. There are also valuable walkways in the Upper Town between Dr Newtons Way and Slad Road which given the precipitous nature of the terrain ought to be protected from encroachment and building enlargement , Sadly paths have been lost in recent months around the Library/Police Station and between Brickrow and Lansdown in the past year. Rural footpaths also need to be maintained and kept in the face of development Perhaps a zoned area of protection more generally for the town itself

*** Slad Valley**

This is a resource of national importance with regards to tourism and an area of outstanding natural beauty being the only remaining undeveloped of Stroud's five valleys. The area should include 'The Heavens' in addition. Attempts to develop caravan and camping sites and new roads on private land should be discouraged alongside that of non Cotswold extensions to existing buildings excluding extensions of particular architectural merit.

• Green Belt , Farmland and Allotments

Should be strenuously preserved to encourage tourism and local welfare.

Density and height

The height of buildings in Stroud centre should be carefully maintained. eg. The recent and ongoing development between Brickrow and Lansdown obscures the Church and historic buildings given Stroud centres unique perspectives. The police station being a particular unfortunate blight.

*** Vacant accommodation above and entire retail premises**

Grants and penalties should be available to encourage the rental sector utilising and adapting unused space above shops etc thus proving investment in the town centre to the benefit of the local economy and easing the local housing demand especially for younger persons and families. In some cases returning retail premises to housing could be considered but with great care for only architecturally meritorious projects and co-powned and managed buildings.

*** Energy provision**

All new housing and extensively rebuilt housing and likewise industrial buildings should be encouraged to use solar and heat pump technology in a non intrusive manner encouraged with planning trade offs and the utilisation of possible grants from Central government.

*** Empty lots in Stroud Centre , Fawkes Place etc.** this ugly abandoned space and others in town centre should be developed in low scale mixed residential/ business work units for young persons and key workers

*** Land Banks** on Canal side, Historic Industrial buildings and Tricorn House etc should be actively discouraged and developed to assist fulfillment of housing projection.

Large Residential Developments should include community facilities eg bars or social centres lest they become rows of featureless soulless residential boxes

Yours faithfully

