

19th January 2020

Dear Sir / Madam,

Regarding the Draft local plan Berkeley / Sharpness area.

I would like my views of objection to the proposal to be noted, and assuming that this plan goes to an inspection, I would like you to bring this letter to the attention of the inspectorate.

I strongly object to the proposal of 5000 houses being built on the land between Berkeley and Sharpness as outlined in the draft plan. We do not need this many houses in this area; it is completely inappropriate and would change the whole area beyond recognition. I have lived in this area all my life and have seen a number of changes not always for the better ... we have lost the senior school, cinema, bus service , hospital to name some of the negative things. However, both Berkeley and Sharpness are strong communities and I agree that there is a need for some housing for the young people who grow up here and who want to stay in the area. The houses have become far too expensive for most younger people to be able to afford. But 5000 houses! There are currently about 200 houses being built on "Canonbury Rise". A smaller number like this in the vicinity of Sharpness and again in Berkeley would be more appropriate. Lots of smaller villages in the area like Newport, Woodford, Stone could cope with some more houses to keep their villages thriving. I believe this is called dispersal and expanding of existing communities and this is the first choice of most people in the area rather than huge "garden villages" which are really just big housing estates. This is definitely what I would prefer and I wonder why the council is ignoring the people it is supposed to be representing.

I don't want the landscape ruined just because it is easier to build on green fields. Everybody is concerned with climate change now. What happens if the river Severn rises and these houses get flooded? The area this developer wants to build on might not be a flood risk now but the way things are changing it could well become one especially if all the fields that soak up the rain are covered in concrete, roads and houses.

What happens to all the wildlife in the area? The developers may say they will leave a nature reserve and have lots of green spaces but how many trees will be chopped down, how many hedges will be ripped out, how much light pollution would 5000 houses create? The whole of the Severn estuary is a huge nature reserve which this plan is threatening. I wonder how this would affect the bird migration towards Slimbridge. It can only have a detrimental effect.

The roads won't be able to cope. They have already become increasingly busy over the years. A lot of the roads around here are small lanes. The promised bypass was never finished and it seems there is no plan to change this, just a future aspiration. Getting onto the A38 can be really difficult now so it would be dreadful if this many houses were built.

There is not much employment here – people travel from my village to Bristol and even to Swindon and complain now about the traffic jams to get onto the motorway. Some people use the train but trying to park at Cam station has got difficult as it is really busy already. I don't think we can cope with all these extra houses and people. I think the area would be like Quedgeley and be a place that people commute from. They might think they are coming to live in the countryside but they would be living in a building site that is no longer countryside. They would be living in a "potential growth

point – this is how our area is really viewed, an easy option to solve the council's housing now and in the future with no regard for its current villages which will be ruined.

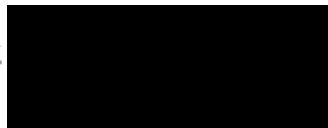
It is also hard enough now to get to see a Doctor. You might say that there will be lots more facilities but everyone knows that developers build houses because they make lots of money. They aren't interested in the health of the people, just the health of their pockets.

In 2011 you acknowledged that Sharpness was **NOT a preferred area for growth**. Cam, Eastington and west of Stonehouse were preferred as more sustainable and viable options.... It is sited that it is remote, has flood risk problems and landscape impact issues and there would be more commuting and that there is very little market demand for employment in this location; the port is noisy, smelly and incompatible as a neighbour and still has a long lease. Also there would be a negative impact on Berkeley's high street vitality.

For all my above reasons I think that the council should rethink this plan; and ensure that some really affordable housing is agreed in any plan and that the number of houses should be limited to what is really needed by the local people which would support and respect the current residents.

Thank you for taking these points into consideration

Yours faithfully,



Also the windows in new houses are small
and people use more electric.
There are also problems related to
drainage and sewerage