



Dear 

For twenty-five years I have opened my bedroom curtains each morning and gazed over rolling countryside listening to the birds singing and the lambs bleating. I am now extremely troubled that there could potentially be 2500 houses on this very land in the near future. I appreciate that there is a great need for more housing but I strongly feel that the number of proposed new dwellings is ridiculously disproportionate. I also understand from our local councillor that the figure is nearing 5000 with the other sites earmarked in our area.

Berkeley currently has just over 1000 dwellings so we are looking at five times the size of our existing beautiful historical town. We already struggle to get a doctor's appointment, we already struggle to get on to the M5 during rush hours, we already struggle to get nursery places for our toddlers and school places for our children and grandchildren, we already struggle to find local employment. So, what on earth does the future hold for Berkeley with 15,000 extra people needing doctor's appointments, and where are all these people going to work, certainly not in the town so that means people commuting to work thus causing more congestion in and out of the town every day which doesn't bode well for environmental issues.

Whilst on the subject of environmental issues, anyone who lives in Berkeley will tell you how so many of the lower lying fields flood on a regular basis during wet weather. How is the water table going to be affected once the developers begin excavating the ground? Surely replacing natural drainage in the higher areas with tonnes and tonnes of concrete is going to have a knock-on effect to the lower lying ground. Coupled with the fact that hundreds of trees will have to be removed to make way for the plans. A mature Oak tree will absorb 1000 litres of water ever day !!! With one of the most tidal and unpredictable rivers in the country in our back garden this can only be a recipe for disaster.

As previously mentioned, there is a need for new housing in Berkeley and Sharpness but it has to be a realistic proportion that the existing town and infrastructure can cope with.

Yours sincerely

