[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 17 January 2020 10:46
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Fwd: Proposed development PS36 New settlement at sharpness

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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-------- Original Message --------
Subject: Proposed development
From: [redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 1:57 PM
To: local.plan@stroud.gov.uk
CC:

To whom it may concern,

My husband and I would like to express our views against the proposed housing development in the Berkeley and Sharpness area. We feel strongly about this topic, as residents of this beautiful area for all of our youth and adulthood. We have also brought up two children in this quiet and safe community, allowing them to walk from Wanswell to Sharpness primary school with our full trust, and we now feel concerned for the future children of this area, if the proposed development happens, as the roads are to become busier and more dangerous.
Another concern is that we have little facilities in this area, especially our doctors surgery (Marybrook medical centre), which is already struggling to fulfill the demand from the local area. It can be very hard to book appointments as it is always so busy, functioning as such a small surgery in a growing town.
With only two small primary schools, (Sharpness and Berkeley) , the area does not have the facilities to take on a large capacity of children. The schools are already at their largest numbers and more families in the area would put a large strain on these schools and teachers, leading to the impossible task of finding educational facilities to take on these youths. We know that there is talk of a new primary school, however there is simply not enough room or stable roads to support this venture. This money could be better spent improving the existing school facilities that are already in place.
As you will know, Berkeley Vale secondary school was recently closed to the public and adapted into a focus school for the Plymouth brethren. This closure added pressure to local schools such as Rednock and Katharine Lady Berkeley school, as their pupil numbers were largely increased. In 2013, our eldest child first applied to secondary school (KLB) and even then there was a chance that they would not have enough spaces for her to attend the school. Can you imagine how much that issue has grown in the last 6 years?
Local shops is another large issue that needs to be considered in the talks of this development. With the closure of Sharpness' co-op, many people from Sharpness need to travel to Berkeley to get their daily essentials and Cam to do larger shops, as the one post office is not equipped enough to deal with the already large amount of people in this small area. Berkeley shops are also a problem, as there is not enough parking spaces to facilitate the large number of local people who use the very few shops. This high number of vehicles has led to a high street that is difficult to use. More houses would mean more cars that the roads could not handle, in terms of infrastructure and in terms of traffic.
On the subject of traffic, the roads in sharpness and wanswell are in terrible condition, laden with dangerous pot holes. Allowing more traffic to come and go into these small areas, by means of poorly conditioned roads, would be dangerous and risk the infrastructure that is already so damaged. Traffic would also continue to cause problems on the a38 and towards the motorway. With little jobs in this area, people would need to commute for work in the cities of Gloucester or Bristol, causing busier roads, longer traffic jams and

creating more hazards. For a start, nobody wants to travel to a job in the city, let alone travel for hours on a heavily congested road just to get to that job everyday.
This wouldn't be such an issue if the public transport service was active and frequent in our area, but this service is terrible, almost non-existent, making it difficult for commuters, young people and the elderly to get anywhere without the use of a car. It is impossible to find a bus running, let alone at the time you need it. If the bus service was better, it could reduce the amount of traffic on these fragile roads and help to get elderly people out and about. Instead, the council would like to waste money on houses in an area that is completely unequipped and impractical. We believe that the focus and priority of the council should be on public transport, facilities and the roads, as these are the things that are already struggling under the weight of such a large amount of people in such a tiny town.
Something that we believe is important to many people, other than ourselves, is the fact that we are severely struggling without a bank. It is especially difficult for elderly people who have entrusted their savings with Natwest and now have to travel to Thornbury to their nearest branch. As online banking presents a challenge that many elderly people aren't willing to risk with their money, going to a physical bank was a very easy and safe option, but now that we no longer have our local bank, many people are travelling to Thornbury, causing queues that run out of the building door.
We are fully aware that there is a need for more houses, however the number proposed (2400) is not proportionate to the area. We agree 300 houses near to the docks is a feasible option, as this will not impact too heavily on our local area. Also, the 70 proposed at the focus school would not present too many issues, leaving farming land and local walking paths as they are.
We have seen the building work happening next to the bypass and are greatly disappointed with the size of the houses. Large family sized homes will be expensive and therefore not appeal to young people. What we need is affordable housing for younger people in this area and that does not seem the case with this proposed development.
May we suggest, the council look into the derelict and unsightly land of Newport Towers and also the old Stroud council buildings in Cainscross. We feel that these premises are wasted and could be better alternatives to the location of some of the new builds.
As everybody in the area is aware, our local land is subject to severe flooding and as a result of more concrete, we can only fear this issue will worsen over time and present perhaps more dangerous problems.
We hope you will take this all into consideration when reviewing the proposed development.
Thank you.
Yours sincerely,
[redacted]