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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:**  
**To:** \_WEB\_Local Plan  
**Subject:** Comments on 'Emerging' Local Plan

**Categories:** Consultation response

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to object to the allocation of sites to the parish of Minchinhampton, in particular to the large greenfield sites chosen in the town itself.

The plan clearly states 'The general consensus is that development should be focused on brownfield/derelict areas and within settlement boundaries.' (page 17) and yet this has not been adhered to in these land allocations.

The plan has arbitrarily selected two sites for development, one for 'up to' 100 houses and one for 30. Both sites are outside the settlement boundary, within the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and on green fields that offer an important resource for the vital agricultural industry in the parish. Both are almost adjacent to Minchinhampton Common, an internationally-recognised Site of Special Scientific Interest and very close to Rodborough Common, a Special Area of Conservation. Both commons are grazed by cattle that overwinter in the fields selected for development. These cattle are vital for the health of the limestone grassland and that plants and animals that inhabit this precious area.

The road across the common is an unclassified road carrying 60,000 cars a week that use it as a rat run to commute from Cirencester to the M5, killing cattle and endangering those using the common for recreation in the process. This route is highly unsuited to the additional of further traffic resulting from unnecessary development adjacent to the commons.

The revised National Planning Policy Framework of July 2018 (paragraph 172) gives unequivocal protection to landscapes with AONB.

Furthermore, as the District Council is aware, the Cotswold AONB is under consideration for National Park status given its unique characteristics.

The town is in need of a small number of affordable houses for local people adjacent to the settlement boundary or within it and that raises no objection from me at all.

If this allocation for Minchinhampton is adopted, it will change the town for ever, from a rural community with an agricultural way of life and strong links to grazing the common to an urban sprawl. We all know how developers work to get as many sites approved as possible once the door is left ajar and how the planning process will continue allocating sites without thought for the local community.

Thank you.

Kind regards

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