

3000 houses and associated local services and the required infrastructure. It is not clear that this can be achieved in Sharpness. Allocating employment land there does not mean employers will come,

2.4a

Comments previously raised identified a need for more green spaces within Wotton. It is a mystery how this could be achieved. Also, pressure for infill housing in places like Holywell, if granted, will make the position worse. Such infill seems to be supported on page 35 of the Strategy.

The post office facility in North Nibley is under threat. Wotton has risen to the challenge of youth facilities following the withdrawal of the County Council from most of this work.

It is impossible to expand Kingswood Primary School any further and the housing growth in the village will mean that primary pupils will have to travel elsewhere. I am not aware of any proposal for a new primary school in Kingswood or where one could be located that would be convenient to the local population.

The pressure on GP surgeries, dentists etc. also exists in Wotton and will get worse with the intended expansion of Charfield whose current residents make significant use of the facilities in Wotton.

Katharine Lady Berkeley's School governors (I am the longest serving one) have no wish to see the school increase in pupil numbers beyond 1500. Also, this could not be achieved without rebuilding parts of the school where narrow corridors are already an issue. It is most likely that increased local housing will restrict admissions to a smaller area.

Certainly the need for funding and providing appropriate infrastructure alongside housing development is an issue.

The routes of safe walking and cycling links should reflect their purpose. A recreational route is unlikely to be attractive to people en route to employment or local schools.

2.4b

Policy protection should extend to open spaces beyond settlements, particularly those within the AONB and those of landscape value.

3.1a

Given that Gloucestershire is looking to a vision for 2050, perhaps this vision should have the same timeframe. I support the vision in the Strategy, but will it be achieved?

3.2a

Agree.

4.2

I support Option 1 and also Option 4 if a suitable site exists. I don't believe that Sharpness is in an appropriate location.

Regarding the comments on the south of the district (page 35) I support the reopening of Charfield station, which has been a high priority in the county and with me for many years. It is clear that a number of junctions on the M5 need improvements, including J14, particularly given the growth proposed in South

Gloucestershire. The suggestion of infill in Wotton goes against the desire (2.4a) to have more green space within the town. Public transport needs a much larger uptake from the public to continue to be affordable on services currently subsidised by the County Council. The reopening of a station at Charfield combined with a shuttle bus linking its services to local communities would help, but also relies on an adequate level of local train services to access employment in Bristol, Gloucester and beyond. The implementation of the MetroWest Phase 2 rail link as far as Gloucester is needed. This is not mentioned in the Strategy, only a bus link.

4.3a

In general I support this. The environmental and physical restraints on growth in Wotton are considerable and were fully exhausted by implementation of the Wotton Town Plan in the 1970s. Employment in Wotton has been reduced by previous planning decisions. For example, at one time Water Lane was to be used for industry, but this got no further than the now demolished ice-cream factory which has been replaced by housing.

Sharpness does not live up to much of the description of a Tier 3a settlement. (“generally well-connected and accessible places, which benefit from their proximity to higher order settlements and / or good transport routes”). The description, however, does acknowledge that the “principal role of almost all these settlements is as a ‘dormitory’, where most people have no choice but to commute to work elsewhere.”

4.4a

The settlement boundary of Wotton should be strenuously maintained given the high landscape value of the surrounding land.

4.4c

No, in Wotton’s case.

4.4e

None are proposed for Wotton and I agree with that.

5.0a

Mini vision for the Wotton area (page 87) should include:

Where are we now? The facilities should also include the Heritage Centre (and Tourist Information Point), Arts Centre, and the Wotton Community Parc. There is no Farmers’ Market at present.

Key Issues

It is unclear how a better public transport system can be provided except through reopening of Charfield Station. (See my previous comments.)

Affordable housing and downsizing would be very difficult in Wotton beyond what is currently available.

Loss of employment sites to housing in Wotton has already occurred and cannot be reversed.

The Future

It is difficult to see how the Wotton Cluster will benefit at all from “the on-going revitalisation of Dursley and its town centre”.

Planning Constraints (Wotton)

The first sentence should mention Wotton’s sensitive landscape setting.

Landscape sensitivity (Wotton)

I am not aware of any land parcels of less sensitivity in the directions mentioned. There are no directions, preferred or not for employment growth.

Settlement Role (Wotton)

It can hardly be regarded as a **very large** settlement. It is described on page 39 as a Tier 2 settlement. These are described as “relatively large”.

Local community services and facilities should include GPs, dentists, primary schools, places of worship, pubs, playgrounds, all in the plural. There is also the bowling green.

Strategic services and facilities to a wider catchment should include two banks and an 11-18 comprehensive secondary school. There is not a separate 6th form facility.

Access to key services and facilities elsewhere

I do not agree that Wotton’s access to these is “good”. It is very difficult to get to work outside Wotton e.g. Bristol and put in a full day’s work using public transport. It is difficult to describe the town as having a significant employment role. The staff at Renishaw’s headquarters, mostly in Kingwood parish, come from a very wide area. Wotton certainly principally functions as a dormitory settlement.

Potential sites for development

PS40: I have no idea of the probability of this coming about. It seems very unlikely the school would extend so much.

Alternative sites

There are no alternative sites.

I am concerned here (and elsewhere) by the identification of alternative (additional?) sites for development when these have already been dismissed on landscape sensitivity grounds etc. which the previous section makes this clear: “There are no potential sites for housing or employment growth, due to environmental constraints around Wotton Under Edge.”

