

Mail Room Services

14 DEC 2020

Received

13 December, 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: New Housing Consultation

I have written previously with regard to the Draft Local Plan and made my point of view known that I feel that Stroud District Council are apparently wanting to put the majority of their required housing into the far South of the district. This would seemingly make life much easier for the Council in filling its quota but appears to make no real sense on a number of issues which I wrote about extensively. Now we have this Government planning to increase the number of houses that our area will apparently require, added to enormous changes in the "Planning for the future" White Paper which appears to have hardly any consideration for local democracy.

Regarding the current issue:

I support the strategies A and C i.e. to build more intensively on sites close to larger urban centres and for a growth point more sustainably positioned along the A38 corridor close to the motorway. The growth points at Whitminster and Hardwicke/ Moreton Valence appear to be sustainable on many levels when compared to Sharpness and Wisloe. Obviously they are nearer to the major conurbations of Gloucester and Cheltenham, two large areas offering employment. The Vision for Gloucestershire identified growth between Gloucester and Cheltenham regarding economic and industrial development. To have substantial housing in an area nearer these two cities makes logical sense. In addition there is far easier and quicker access to the motorway making transport links more sustainable. Putting a growth point for thousands of houses over 15 miles from Gloucester seems inappropriate when there are other areas that are more sustainable.

Also, adding to some areas of housing where there is already infrastructure is logical such as Stonehouse and Cam. I think that the Council should strongly consider developing Whaddon as it is in the Stroud area rather than put all the housing in the South. I feel that this is a real opportunity for SDC to revisit the local plan given the changes and the proposed new sites that are now available for consideration. I would add that having just watched a programme about the shoreline of the River Stour in Essex being given AONB status it is with disbelief that a council that likes to consider itself a leader in all things related to the environment, would be prepared to risk desecrating the unique estuarine landscape of the Berkeley and Sharpness area.

I would like SDC to review the whole plan as if the changes to planning come to fruition there would be no opportunity for the local population to have any say in what happens in the future as there would be no review -planning would be permitted. I urge the Council to think long and hard about the long term effects of their decisions for generations to come.

I ask for my letter to be put before the Inspector and my points to be given consideration

Yours sincerely

