

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@gloucestershire.gov.uk]
Sent: 15 January 2020 15:14
To: WEB_NDP Consultation
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: Cam Neighbourhood Development Plan - Notice of Publication

Dear Sir

Thank you for consulting Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) on the above matter. I have the following officer comments to make.

Ecology Comments

The policies promote biodiversity conservation and the achievement of net gain which is welcomed. The most relevant policies in this respect are SKPOL4, SKPOL14 and SKPOL15. Overall there are no compelling ecological reasons to recommend any change to the wording of the NDP policies.

Please be mindful that the Cotswold Water Park Biodiversity Action Plan is currently under review (10.3.2.3, 11.2, 11.3.2.6 & 13). A replacement document (which may have another name and format) may be agreed by the end of 2020 or later. The Cotswold District Council Heritage Team will have more information about this.

Public Health Comments

The Public Health team welcomes a number of the proposed NDP policies, including CAMES1 (Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity), CAMMC1 (Improving and Enhancing Connections for Cyclists and Pedestrians, CAMCF1 (Retention of Community Facilities) – as policies which are likely to have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of local residents. We also support the use of the Building with Nature benchmark, which includes standards addressing wellbeing.

The Cam NDP could be further strengthened by making greater reference to health and wellbeing in the policy explanation sections – there is currently no reference to health and wellbeing, even in policies relating to active travel. For example, mental health is a local priority – however, there is good evidence that quality green infrastructure, physical activity and social connections all have a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing. The Cam NDP therefore has potential to support efforts to improve mental – as well as physical – health and wellbeing of residents.

Archaeology Comments

We have no additional comments to make.

Transport Comments

The NDP and its comprehensive coverage of local planning matters is welcomed. It shows close understanding of local movement and connectivity issues and aligns with the Local Transport Plan and the transport policies outlined in its Stroud Connecting Places Strategy. The NDP objectives may be extended to recognise the need to identify and reinforce links to areas of new strategic development sites, as Cam is pivotally positioned in relation to these.

Cam is identified as a proposed site for development within the adopted and emerging Stroud Local Plan (SLP). The existing Local Plan (LP) allocates areas next to proposed new housing at North East Cam and the emerging LP identifies Cam as a primary focus for growth. Development located in proximity to Cam & Dursley station needs to maximise opportunities for sustainable connectivity to it and create a key strategic interchange location. This is particularly prevalent as Cam & Dursley station is the only rail station in the district that provides access to Bristol and the South West.

Local transport solutions including path upgrades and improvements to the cycle network can often be best identified and generated at a grassroots level and emerge through an NDP. Cam is well positioned to benefit from its rail links and those links will need to be increasingly multidirectional, whereas historically they would have been stronger to its south. The recognition of the role and importance of the rail station in improving connectivity to the wider area is welcomed as is the requirement to improve facilities and bus connections. Note in particular the need to support and safeguard quieter routes particularly linking transport hubs and key destinations. To contextualise the draft NDP in transport terms, there is huge potential for Transport Capacity Building in Stroud district, and huge need to do so. However, there will be important stages to achieving this which will rely on a clear vision, a transport masterplan and mode shift objectives in relation to development phased delivery.

Opportunities should be taken to request that strategic developments create opportunities for transport mode shift and finer grain of movement as an outcome of that development and in conjunction with the SLP and the LTP and their supporting assessments, Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment (both documents are under review). To this end the role of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CiL) in and around Cam may be closely tied to the transport and other infrastructure needs identified through the NDP. The gains that can potentially be achieved within the Cam NDP area, through CiL spending, will be of local interest and offer additional benefits due to development, especially where the NDP has provided evidence, local views and aspirations for its administrative area and on the impact and relationship of development to transport infrastructure and the need for connectivity.

If you would like to discuss any of the points raised above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

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Planning Officer
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