

## Response to Local Plan

Alkington PC accepts that there is a requirement for additional housing and would welcome dispersal around the villages and towns to ensure that communities evolve and there is social cohesion. There would also be a reduced impact on the existing infrastructure.

Concerns around the proposed Berkeley Garden Village:

The impact on the infrastructure of up to 5000 houses will be enormous as there appear to be no plans to enhance the roads out of Berkeley/Sharpness, namely Alkington Lane and the B4066, or finish the 'missing link' to the A38 of the Berkeley bypass.

We understand that the proposal is to discourage residents of the new garden village from owning cars and use the new rail link to Cam for onward connections, but realistically this will not be practical as not everybody works close to a railway station at the end destination and will require access to a car. No consideration has been made for families as the cost for using the train to access leisure pursuits will not be feasible as train fares are very expensive.

The impact of significant increased traffic on the A38 and the already overloaded motorway junctions (13 and 14) will be immense, especially with the large Great Oldbury development underway, plans for another development of 1500 houses at Wisloe and a huge development around Thornbury.

During the building process, the narrow roads, particularly Alkington Lane, will experience a huge increase in HGVs and it is imperative that both the B4066 and Alkington Lane will need to be upgraded before construction starts. They already suffer with the existing HGVs accessing Sharpness docks and, as neither road has a footpath, are dangerous for pedestrians.

Council met on an evening when Storm Brendan was at its height and many of the roads/lanes were experiencing dangerous flooding which made very difficult driving. The impact of a new town, with so much of the countryside covered by housing, is bound to make the situation worse.

Of major concern to the council is that the new development is highly likely to be a dormitory town with people moving out of the major cities to live in the more affordable countryside and commute to work. There seem to be little plans for community facilities so there will be no opportunity for social cohesion which could lead to isolation. The mental wellbeing of the residents does not appear to have been considered at all and as one in four of people suffer from mental illness, this should be paramount.

In summary, the proposed development of Berkeley Green Village is not proportionate and appears to be more of an idealistic plan without considering the impact on the area or the realistic needs of the people who will live there.