

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Stroud District Local Plan - Wisloe Green

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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We wish to express our objection to the proposed development being referred to as Wisloe Green.

We have a number of concerns:

- No communication from Stroud District Council (SDC) has been received by us at any point. We were completely unaware of the Local Plan's existence at the initial consultation stage, and were therefore denied the opportunity to contribute to the Issues & Options Consultation in 2017. We only became aware of what was going on more than a year later - after the proposals had started to take shape - when a neighbour alerted us. How many other residents were also left in the dark until it was too late to influence the emerging strategy? We would expect SDC to have communicated actively with all of its council tax payers from the start on such a major issue as this. A simple mailing to everyone on the electoral roll, advising that the exercise was starting and referring people to the council's website, would have ensured everyone had an opportunity to contribute properly. We spoke to someone in SDC's planning strategy team as soon as we belatedly became aware of the proposals, but were fobbed off with an answer about social media - please understand that many people don't use it! To date we have still not received any communication from SDC on this subject.
- Wisloe Green would be too large a development to impose on any one area. It would effectively join together a number of existing small villages and hamlets, each currently with its own identity, and create an urban sprawl connecting them to Cam and to Dursley beyond. This is surely contrary to one of the stated intentions, which is to protect the nature and character of existing smaller settlements.
- Using good quality agricultural land for housing is unacceptable. In particular, the fields forming the southern part of the proposed Wisloe Green development site are farmed actively and should be maintained for this purpose.
- The agricultural land classifications used by DEFRA and Natural England show the proposed Wisloe Green development site as being category 2. It seems suspiciously convenient that a recently commissioned assessment - on behalf of the existing owners of the land, who are offering to sell - appears to have recommended downgrading the land to a level which would allow development to be considered.
- The proposals refer to an assessment having been made of the likely noise levels affecting Wisloe Green residents. However, the 'impact map' also shows there would be significantly increased noise levels affecting existing residents living along or close to the A38.
- Residents in the existing settlements would be affected by significantly increased light pollution.
- We note that SDC has recognised the pre-historic, Roman and medieval heritage which exists within the proposed development site. However, we feel too little weight is being attached to its historical importance.
- At the recent public exhibition at Slimbridge Village Hall we were under the impression that the people running the event were SDC staff with local knowledge, but it seems not all of them were. We heard subsequently that a woman with whom we had an extensive conversation about our concerns was actually from a London based PR agency. We find it

quite disingenuous that SDC chose to staff the event with someone whose purpose was presumably to spin the facts and sell the proposal on SDC's behalf rather than genuinely to receive residents' input and convey it accurately to SDC.

We chose to live here because we value the existing rurality and are horrified at the prospect of such a large new development as Wisloe Green being imposed on this and neighbouring villages and hamlets. It is quite simply too large a development for such a rural setting. We would urge you to pursue a different strategy involving greater dispersal of new building, thereby avoiding such damaging impact on existing small communities.