

To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Objection

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I object to the fact that Stroud District is having to accommodate housing allocation from other districts in the county, e.g. Gloucester City, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury.

I object to the siting of 80% of these houses in the southern half of Stroud District, i.e. from Cambridge southwards, and therefore in the southernmost part of the county. More houses should be built at Hardwick, and the other districts should deal with their own allocations instead of dumping them on Stroud District.

I object to the concentration of 1500 houses at the new settlement Wisloe Green along with 880 in Cam. This will lead to the merging of several currently distinct settlements, each with its own individual characteristics: Dursley, Cam, Slimbridge, Cambridge, Gossington and Wisloe itself. I believe a number of people objected to Wisloe Green in the Emerging Strategy so why is it still in the Draft Plan for Consultation?

I object to the development at Wisloe Green being designed to 'garden village' principles. It is unlikely that the settlement will provide all the needs of the residents within cycling distance or by the use of public transport. Each house therefore should be provided with parking spaces for at least two cars.

There seems to be no mention of the provision of a secondary school or a doctors' surgery at Wisloe Green. Neither is there mention of the requirement for a new sewage treatment plant and a new motorway junction.

If Stroud District is taking housing allocation from other districts, people living in these new houses are likely to out-commute to Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury. They will also have a requirement to visit family and friends back in their district of origin. This would suggest that the housing in the Stroud District will not be sustainable in terms of work and leisure.

It is unrealistic to expect people to exist in the south of the Stroud District and be able to live their lives reliant on public transport or places they can cycle to. I have lived in this area for over 35 years and can assure you that this is not possible... unless you envisage the population living like people did over 70 years ago, when comparatively few families had a car. The only part of the UK where car ownership is currently less than one per household is London where the public transport provision makes this possible. (Statista, 'Average household car or van ownership in England 2014-2018 by region')

Littlecombe is cited in the plan as having 'more than 400 new homes, 700 new jobs' once it is complete. So far, it may have delivered on the houses but it will be a long time before there are 700 new jobs. In the meantime, people commute to Bristol, Stroud, Gloucester, Cheltenham and even Cardiff. This is likely to be repeated at Wisloe Green, Cam and Newtown/Sharpness. Also, just creating jobs in a particular place does not guarantee that they will be suitable for local residents.

I do not agree with Stroud District setting 2030 as their to move towards being Carbon Neutral. The District should stick to the government's more realistic date of 2050. To achieve Carbon Neutral in 10 years would require the population to return to an existence resembling the early 20th century. However, over a period of 30 years, technology can be used to achieve Carbon Neutral without returning the population to a peasant-like existence.

Finally I would like to pull out of the Plan document the first two bullet points of the 'snapshot' that makes up a picture of the District today:

- Ours is a rural district with several market towns, each with their own distinct characteristics, assets and issues.
- We have a high quality environment; this is a desirable place to live and work.

The proposals to build 1500 houses at Wisloe Green, 880 in Cam and a further 2400 at Sharpness will ensure that these two points will no longer apply to the southern half of the Stroud District once the houses have been built.

Regards

