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Comments on Stroud Local Plan

My main objection to the Draft Local Plan is the location of the proposed Wisloe Green site.

Many alternative sites have been ignored or rejected without objective assessment, for example Harrdwicke. In addition the Wisloe site, when combined with the development in Cam will create an urban sprawl, rather than the 'garden village' promised in the documentation. This can not be a good example of planning, which would be better served by dispersed developments in existing settlements on a smaller scale.

The vast majority of the housing development in the Draft Plan is in the South of the District and this does not take into account the employment possibilities in the South. In the Stroud District most of the jobs are not in the South and this would mean a large increase in car usage, in order to get to work and back, creating an unacceptable increase in traffic on the A38 and M5, as well as the minor roads in the area. Rail travel from Cam and Dursley would be unable to handle the any large increase in traffic and is also unsuitable for short commuter journeys in the area. Any thoughts of increasing cycling or walking to work completely ignore the dangers on our main roads and are simply wishful thinking. The increase in traffic will increase the amount of pollution (air and noise) and will be detrimental to health.

Little thought or sensible levels of study seem to have been given to wildlife conservation. Protected migrating birds use the site, a fact which can only be verified by a proper long term study. In addition the existing study seems to have only superficially examined the site for species such as great crested newts and long eared bats. It must also be remembered that other more common species are important to maintain the balance of our wildlife and can not be ignored.

The impact of this development on Slimbridge would be very serious and would destroy the very essence of the rural nature of our Severn Vale community. Please note that this not a NIMBY appeal but is a deeply felt and real concern about the destruction of a self contained and vibrant community.

There are major concerns regarding sewage and drainage. This is already a problem and will get worse. The supporting evidence has only examined a small part of the problem and has ignored the water run off issues which will be made considerably worse by concreting over this large site.

I am extremely suspicious of the ALC downgrading from grade 2 to 3b. This is not supported by the variety and quality of the crops which have been grown on this site.

Regards



