

To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

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The Planning Strategy Team,

I have read the draft local plan and attended one of the consultation meetings in Slimbridge Village Hall. I would like to confirm that I do NOT support the councils preferred strategy for meeting the needs for growth and development. The overall plan and Wisloe development in particular put a disproportionate burden on my local area and need to be reconsidered.

As you are no doubt aware, the area around Slimbridge, Cambridge and Cam is already very congested (which will increase with the currently ongoing development on Box Road, Cam). Noise, particulate and chemical pollution from the M5 and A38 must already exceed acceptable or desired levels (if not legal limits) and already detracts from the quality of life of people in this part of your district. I would, in particular, be concerned for the children in the area who are, as we know, particularly susceptible to the impacts from all of these kinds of pollution on both their physical and mental health.

I am also concerned about the loss of agricultural land which until recently was classified as very good agricultural land. I am dismayed and suspicious of such a convenient recent reclassification of the land which enables development. At a time when Brexit is creating uncertainty about our industrial and agricultural supply chains, it seems perverse that you are proposing to change this land usage. I hope that Natural England can have some veto over this crass reclassification.

In addition to destroying the agricultural value of this land, any development will have a massive detrimental impact on the conservation value of this specific land and the adjoining areas. I have been told that various birds and small mammals have been spotted within the proposed site. Of even greater concern is the loss of this land as a buffer or sink to absorb or mitigate the various pollutants already being discharged from the M5 and A38. Also, there is increasing scientific evidence of the need for wildlife corridors to sustain wider ecosystems. The proposed development not only destroys the conservation value of this land but will undoubtedly have a much wider impact on the ecosystems in the local area. The net result of this development will be a decrease in nature's buffering capacity and an increase in man made pollution. This is NOT sustainable development and the people at Stroud District Council responsible for this plan should be ashamed of themselves.

Finally, people who already live in this area are acutely aware of the surface water issues. There is a very delicate balance between the natural and built environments which we all rely on to mitigate the risks of flooding to land, roads and properties. The Wisloe development is another additional perturbation of this balance which will be almost impossible to model with the appropriate level of certainty especially considering the other massive ongoing development in Cam. An associated issue will be the safe management of sewage discharge from an ever increasing housing population and the unintended consequences from constructing or amending the sewerage system to cope.

In conclusion, I object strongly to the proposed development at Wisloe because of the various impacts as outlined above. I feel that this area has already been overdeveloped and we now need to stop any further large developments such as that proposed at Wisloe. The overall strategy for this area must now give precedence to maintaining the remaining areas of natural capital so that we are able to sustain a reasonable quality of life. It

is essential that we take a reasonably cautious approach to developing our micro-environments at a time when the macro-environment is being increasingly buffeted by the consequences of the ongoing climate emergency.

I am dismayed that a district council which aspires to the principles of sustainable development are behaving in such an unsustainable manner. The proposed plan does not fit with the rhetoric or reputation of the council.

Regards,

