



To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Draft Local Plan

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Dear Planning Team,

I spent some time looking at the information provided at a consultation meeting in Slimbridge Village Hall and also have read the draft plan. I was very concerned by the councils preferred strategy for meeting the needs for growth and development and therefore I do NOT agree with the overall strategic direction of the plan and, in particular, with the inappropriate concentration of development in Wisloe.

I believe that the focus of cramming another 1500 houses in a very rural part of the district is wrong and completely out of step with trying to maintain the rural aspect of this specific part of the district and has the knock on effect of destabilising the rural way of life across the whole district.

For example, although the Wisloe development will be outside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) it will be clearly visible from the AONB. This will be yet another assault on the beauty of the area which is constantly being eroded by inappropriate large developments which are a significant blot on the landscape (like the Javelin Park Incinerator).

I think it is laughable to frame the local plan as the Council's preferred STRATEGY for meeting the future growth and development needs because it lacks any overarching strategic thinking. The net result of the Wisloe development in conjunction with the ongoing development in Cam will be to create an urban sprawl from the Cotswolds to the Severn Vale. This is not strategic thinking but an ad hoc and piecemeal approach to planning which takes no account of the cumulative impact on people, communities or the natural world.

The council appears to have gone for a quick fix to satisfy the housing targets that have been imposed by central government without due regard for the impact on local communities. There needs to be a strategic rethink of the plan to create a better balance of the growth and development objectives with maintaining the way of life across the district. At present, the overly large development at Wisloe will further erode the Stroud way of life. The overall approach should be for a more equitable split of development across the district with more smaller and less dense development sites.

I do not agree with the councils current so called preferred strategy. There needs to be a rethink to develop a strategy that is in keeping with the current way of life and which will help buffer us against the overall environmental and social challenges which are increasingly confronting us in this ever more challenging world.

Your sincerely,

