

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 January 2020 12:19
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: The Berkeley Cluster - Garden Villages

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Sirs

I have filled in the survey form but couldn't see a way of making comment unless supporting the development so am emailing instead. Comments I wish to make:

Environment - there will inevitably be significant destruction of natural habitat. It is not clear whether the proposed small nature reserve is an attempt to replace existing habitat or to preserve a small part of the existing habitat. Either way there will be a substantial reduction in an internationally important habitat.

Employment - significant employment opportunities are unlikely to be developed without major road development. The proposed location is as far away as possible from motorway junctions on the west side of the M5. Businesses are already developing at points of ready access to the M5 and Berkeley cannot compete without major financial incentives. Solution may be to transfer a large part of the Council operations, reflecting the fact the region will be a major population centre not dissimilar in size to Stroud. This may have a side benefit of helping maintain affordable housing in and around Stroud.

Social Engineering - the influx of an additional 10,000 residents will inevitably destroy existing local communities. The track record of such social engineering is not good and there is nothing in the plan to suggest that this would be any different.

Policing - there doesn't seem to be any consideration of the need for increased policing the new population would create.

Local Democracy - if the views of local residents are not to be taken into account it would perhaps be time for SDC to be split into two districts so that our area can be represented. Again, this would tie in with provision of local employment.

Road infrastructure - the area would become primarily a commuter town for Bristol and Gloucester. Train service, if it happened, would not take much of the commuter traffic. Quite aside from the traffic congestion issues, there would be a substantial increase in danger to cyclists.

Flood Risk - in the event of Berkeley becoming isolated during a major flood event of the future what plans would be in place to provide emergency services, will Berkeley have full time emergency services, e.g. ambulance and fire.

Region - this development cannot be viewed in isolation and must be seen in conjunction with the Wisloe development. The two together will almost enclose many of the existing smaller communities towards the river and canal. The two projects are being promoted independently which puts local communities at a significant disadvantage.

Many thanks for taking receipt of these comments.

