

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 January 2020 14:19
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Proposed development in SDC area

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Hello,

I would like to comment on the problems that I foresee with increasing the population of Berkeley and Sharpness by proposed development, which equates to a town the size of Dursley.

Myself, and I'm sure many locals, are not against taking some of the house numbers SDC have to supply but we think that this should be more like an additional 500 houses than 5000.

First of all, the impact on the local wildlife, as well as on climate change, must be considered. Once built on, there is no option for the fields to offer a positive environment for the public, for the trees to soak up CO2, or to provide the habitat for wildlife and birds who will also then have to suffer building noise and light pollution.

Secondly, there are no road improvements planned. We are still awaiting the promised completion of the bypass from Berkeley Heath to the A38 from, I believe, sometime in the 1980's. The roads are consistently in a bad state as it is, and I can't imagine that they would withstand the additional traffic that would inevitably arrive (because public transport has never been a viable option in our area). The proposed answer to keeping down emissions from cars is a railway - is this a guarantee? Has this been thought through thoroughly? Where will this run to and from and how often? Could I get to work on the railway?

Regarding employment, I highly doubt that there will be a significant increase in the diversity of work opportunities locally, so most people will indeed be commuting from Berkeley and Sharpness to Bristol and Gloucester. This will lead to an astounding increase in the amount of local traffic and, as mentioned above, will result in high emissions, worse road conditions, busy roads and noise pollution. Not to mention that there is already pressure on Junctions 13 and 14 of the M5, on the M4 and on the Almondsbury interchange. Building these extra houses will only compound that.

To add to this, the Sustainability Assessment (SA) states that the former Berkeley Power Station site is being promoted for training and employment opportunities. The SA states this could have significant negative effect on local biodiversity/geodiversity, meaning our historic environment would be at risk of flooding events. It could have a negative effect on air quality and climate change as it is in a remote location, but this concern is being discounted based on what are believed to be potential employment opportunities. However, previous documents state that no one wants to base a business in Berkeley and Sharpness as they are too remote.

80% of the houses in the draft local plan are in Wisloe (1,500) and/or Berkeley and Sharpness (5,500). The economic and employment strategy for Gloucestershire is focusing on land between Cheltenham & Gloucester. It would seem to make sense to build close to that location, or near roads to that location, or at locations with good public transport links to that location. Berkeley and Sharpness are none of these things. The obvious sites for expansion in the plan that come under SDC control are Whaddon and Hardwick.

As a final point, there are plans to extend Sharpness primary school by 2040. OK. Which school will these kids go to when they reach 11? There are no plans to build a secondary school until 2040-2050 by which time 2,400 - 2,900 houses will be built, on top of the 1000 that already exist. KLB are no longer taking

anyone unless they live in the centre of Berkeley, so Rednock will be under increased pressure to offer places to the expanding population here - but will they have the capacity?

I truly believe that there is not currently, and there are no plans to improve on, a infrastructure in the immediate local area decent enough to support the proposed increase in the number of houses and population in Berkeley and Sharpness. On so many levels.

I would like my comments to be made available to the Inspector in due course.

Many thanks for your time.

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