

To whom it may concern

I feel I have to write this letter with concern in regards to the planning of 5000 houses in the Berkeley/Sharpness area.

I wrote back in January 2019 to [REDACTED] after attending a local meeting in regards to the councils plans, and in the meeting (Dec18) we discussed the fact of 2400 houses, and now it seems that that number was wishful thinking, when in fact there were plans for 5000!

I am a 35 year old whos family have lived in the local areas, Berkeley, Sharpness, Wanswell and Purton for hundreds of years, and having recently had my first child I was glad that we would be bringing our son up where myself and my family have lived , enjoying the rural and outdoor lifestyle. The idea of this beautiful part of Gloucestershire being ruined by mass housing like what can be found in Quedgely/Hardwick, and Bradley Stoke, to name a few, deeply saddens me . I feel this whole development has been planned for a long time , yet residents have only in the past year been being made aware, and that awareness has been bought about by BASRAG and facebook posts. This will not have reached all residents and subsequently they will not be aware of this MASSIVE planning development, I only heard of it via a local facegroup local page.

I object to the plan for 5000 houses (PS36) over 2 phases due to the following:

1-Ensuring the new housing development is located in the right place, supported by the right services and

infrastructure to create sustainable development- What services? Buses are all being cut, in the past 10 years we have lost our hospital, dentist and secondary school. Already the bypass is busy enough with the lorries for the docks, the roads are littered with horrific potholes, and junction 14! Most households have 2 cars, the roads already struggle with this, they are not designed for this massive increase in traffic that would occur, not only from the residents themselves but also the increase of home deliveries. What will happen? More fields being given way for the heavier traffic? Traffic lights were put in around 12years ago to help with rush hour, but after trialling them they are now turned off at peak time as they can't cope with the volume of traffic!!How will this cope with the 5000 houses from Berkeley, the new developments in Charfield, Falfield, Wotton?

2- Conserving and enhancing Stroud districts countryside and biodiversity, including maximising the potential for a green infrastructure across the district.- How can building 5000 houses in ONE area on green fields do that?

Potential for green infrastructure across the district- how will we be green when a minimum of 5000 cars are driving out of the area to work in surrounding areas ie Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham? There isn't the work in the area, we risk becoming MORE of a commuter town. I understand that they are to build a 10hectre business park, so people from outside of the area can also drive towards Berkeley making more traffic and pollution. I'm sure some residents will work at the business park, but not all, which you (sdc) recognised when doing a pros and cons survey in the core strategy discussion paper in 2011.

3- Maximising the potential of brownfield and underused sites to contribute to housing supply- The vast majority of the planned development is green fields, destroying a beautiful landscape and taking away popular dog walking areas. As a dog owner, there are also a HUGE number of dog owners in the area, my question is where will people walk their dogs? If you take all the green areas away people will have to drive to walking areas, thus creating more pollution. And the irony of some of the farmland being kept aside and being sold to us as new "greenspace" is laughable.

4-Developing strategies to avoid, reduce and mitigate the indirect impacts of development on the natural

environment- HOW?! How will this development reduce impacts on the environment, its massive!! I know the areas are marked as safe from flooding , but when all the fields surrounding have been changed to concrete, will they still be safe from flooding? You recognise this problem again in the 2011 paper stating that this area has a 'significant risk factor'

5- Tackling the acute lack of affordable housing in the district –As someone who falls into the direct market for this kind of housing, I agree that we need some housing , but judging by the new building project at Canonbury rise, I am

not hopefully that the new houses are truly affordable. Why can we not build some more areas like "Butlers close" that was built just off Lynch road in Berkeley. They were houses built for local residents and at a fair rent price. Why not build a slightly larger area with more affordable rent and actual affordable prices with residents of Berkeley being offered first reserve on them?

Also I am confused by the fact that on one of the plans for possible development in the area, when done in 2011 marked the key services and facilities in Berkeley as poor and Sharpness/Newtown as very poor. Yet on this new proposal in 2017 these have miraculously both changed to good! Seems rather convenient.

I know we need houses, but not on this scale, it truly is monstrous and will destroy the local community. I had the opportunity to settle in either France or New Zealand but my husband and I decided on settling in Berkeley and bringing our family up in the area we love. The feeling of family and friendship is massive throughout the Berkeley community, you only have to look at the events that bring people all together in the area, walk down to the shops and it being friendly with people saying hello to each other.

If this draft plan goes to inspection I would like this letter shown to the inspectorate.

Sincerely

██████████