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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 January 2020 12:11  
**To:** \_WEB\_Local Plan  
**Subject:** Response to draft proposals for Wisloe Green and surrounding area

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I am writing to express my concerns about the Stroud DC proposals for development of the area between Cam, Slimbridge and Cambridge under the draft local plan. While I accept there is pressure to provide large amounts of housing within the District, I do not believe that this new building has to be achieved by causing severe damage to existing settlements and destroying significant blocks of countryside. I wrote to you in the first round of consultation and the points that I made then still stand, but I would like to reiterate the following:

- The draft plan portrays development on the edge of Cam as being separate from the proposals for Wisloe Green. This is a trick of presentation as the separation is only the motorway and a small strip of land. In reality, for residents there is no divide and the proposed development will merge into one large sprawl from the eastern edge of Dursley right through to the western edge of Slimbridge and up to the northern extent of Cambridge. For those living in the existing or proposed new developments the Parish boundaries are irrelevant. What matters is the reality of changing from village life to large town life. The conceit of calling Wisloe Green a 'Garden Village' is a PR trick. Wisloe Green is a major housing development within a newly created 'patchwork' town without the many positive features of a real village. Having lived alongside the development of Bradley Stoke on the edge of Bristol for several years, I am very aware of the pressures that this type of large scale development puts on the existing communities.

- The infrastructure in the area is already beginning to struggle with the large amount of building that is already taking place in Cam. Traffic flow, access to car parking & shops, doctors' surgeries, secondary schools, fitness & leisure facilities, etc are already under strain and this will only get much worse as the current new build stock fills up. The area is already congested at peak times and public transport (mooted as part of the solution in the draft plan) is not, and will not be, able to cope with the demands of thousands of new inhabitants. While the draft plan provides basic comfort with offers of local shops, etc, this will not meet the need for the type of facilities that would be expected in a medium sized town of the size that would be created by the proposed merged developments at Cam and Wisloe Green.

- Cam has already been forced to take a disproportionately large amount of new housing and the latest draft proposals seem to take the view that an area which has already been hit might as well be the target for more development. Perhaps the view within the Council is that the Vale is not an area of beauty, because it does not have the protection of AONB status? I can assure you that those of us who live in this area value its countryside as much as people who live in an area with the 'badge' of protection. Our fields and woodland are no less precious than those of areas perceived as being Cotswold countryside.

- Most people in this area commute to work, whether in Stroud, Gloucester, Bristol, Cheltenham, Thornbury or further afield. This is necessary for the majority of professional jobs and for many lower paying roles. There is very limited employment in the Dursley/Cam area and the draft plan does not suggest how large amounts of high quality employment will be provided for the new inhabitants of Wisloe Green and the other proposed developments. How will major employers providing quality skilled jobs, (not small companies or warehouses, call centres, etc), be attracted

to the area? It appears that the proposed development is merely a dormitory with lip service paid to the employment aspects.

- Despite initial resistance, villages do accept moderate sized housing developments, that are in keeping with the style and scale of the local area. I can only assume that Stroud DC is looking for the easy option by choosing to pursue large developments instead of going into negotiation with individual parish councils to develop smaller sites. I believe that many people would be willing to accept a small development (50 - 100 houses) on each of the villages as a contribution to the needs of the District. A dispersed approach would avoid the significant damage that would be caused by implementing the draft plan.

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