

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 January 2020 11:22
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Cc: _CLLR_Williams, [REDACTED]
Subject: Stroud District Local Plan Review - Comments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Sir/Madam

I have the following comments to make concerning the above review.

I would like to question the rationale behind designating Bisley and Oakridge Lynch as Tier 3b settlements when Eastcombe has been designated a Tier 4a settlement. Indeed, I do not understand why Eastcombe, which is in the same Parish as Bisley and Oakridge has not been included within your 'Cotswold Cluster' area, given that the Cotswold Cluster is described as 'this cluster of parishes' (P. 140)

The Draft Plan comments that Eastcombe has 'only basic/minimal local services' whereas with Bisley and Oakridge it is noted that they each have a primary school, shop/PO, pub, place of worship and village hall. Eastcombe has all of these - in fact more than one place of worship, and a Scout hut in addition to the Village Hall and also a Secondary school.

Old Bussage also has a playing field, pub, place of worship and a village hall. Both Old Bussage and Eastcombe are in walking distance of the GP, Tescos, Dentist and take away at 'Manor Village' (my mother who is in her 80s regularly walks between these villages) If accessibility is an issue there is an hourly bus service between the three which also travels on down into Stroud.

In terms of sustainability surely these areas are more suitable for development than, for example, Oakridge which has one bus a day to Stroud which is effectively a school bus for the Grammar schools given its timetable. It is of no use to anyone who wishes to travel to Stroud for work or to shop.

I would also like to express my disappointment that SDC did not see fit to hold a consultation event anywhere in the 'Cotswold Cluster'. Perhaps if it had, some greater understanding of the facilities in the area might have been gained.

Please note, I am not writing this with the intention of somehow trying to prevent any development in Oakridge, or indeed Bisley. As a Governor of both schools for some years now, I believe there is a need for some affordable housing or smaller market value houses within the Parish as the on-going building of 4/5 bedroom market price houses has not done anything to bring more pupils to either school.

Indeed in Oakridge, many people who have moved into the village recently have sent their (primary age) children to Beaudesert. Which if nothing else is adding to the volume of traffic on the roads everyday. I believe the situation is similar in Bisley.

I have pointed out what I see as a fundamental misunderstanding of the character, nature, facilities and services of the villages in this area. It may seem a small point, but it has the potential to be of importance in the future. Essentially, the Local Plan is a legal document and should have therefore have an appropriate level of clarity and be factually correct.

Yours sincerely,

