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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 January 2020 21:25
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Objection to Stroud District Council Local Plan specifically Wisloe Green

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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To whom it may concern,

I am emailing to state our objection to the Stroud District Council Draft Local Plan, specifically the Wisloe Green plans, that have been put forward to build thousands of houses upon much loved countryside.

Our objections are as follows:

1) The affect on the local community:

The Stroud District Local plan states that this has been created upon : (1.14) The views of local communities and those with a stake in the future of the area' I fail to see how any local residents of the area were consulted prior to these plans being drawn up when we were not informed.

It is my understanding from all that we have spoken with, and our own view that when this has been discussed, the view of the community of Stroud, is to build on to already existing sites, rather than to create a large new site. Furthermore, I would like to add that upon purchasing our property in 2018 there was no mention of this plan for Wisloe, in any of the searches and therefore I have concerns about the timescale that this has been created within and the lack of transparency with the local community, as this was not in the original plans put forward in 2017.

The current plans mean that established families within the community will not only lose their business' but also their homes. The plans have not in any way taken into consideration the current residents of Wisloe and through the layout of the housing would totally isolate current residents. Dursley Road is a quiet country lane with dog walkers walking through the small wooded area to the main road, occasionally. Opening this out and with local amenities along the main road will mean that this small lane will become a parking area for the local shops and result in this road becoming dangerous for local walkers and result in friction with local residents.

In addition to this, the council have in no way consulted with local residents, with many families only finding out about the plans through social media and only formally told by a small flyer days before the so-called consultation. When questioned at the meeting about the 'central landscape feature,' a mound of earth being put on the fields behind Dursley Road, I was categorically told that this was no longer happening, only to then find out that this is still on the current plans. This unsightly mound of earth will result in people being able to see directly into the properties on Dursley Road, who have had planning permission for Velux windows and bought properties based on the privacy that these houses offer. This invasion of privacy will

put these houses at increased risk of crime and also affect the lifestyle that we have specifically sought, to move away from built up areas.

2) The affect on the wildlife at Wisloe - My 8 year old son has asked me to state that the plan to build over 1500 houses is ridiculous stating, 'we need the countryside, otherwise where are all the animals going to live, we need to look after wild life'. It is my understanding that Ernest Cook Trust was originally entrusted the land in order to facilitate such a view and there has been talk about the development being respectful of the local environment and I fail to see how this level of housing, essentially creating a Kingsway and destroying beautiful countryside, is doing so. ;The Ernest Cook Trust website states that the trust was set up 'rooted in the conservation and management of the countryside, the Trust actively encourages children and young people to learn from the land'.

I again fail to see how Ernest Cook Trust or the Council is helping the younger generation to have a respect for the countryside by teaching them that where there is countryside available we destroy this in order to provide low cost, housing and make a profit. With Slimbridge being one of the main local educational facilities and local tourist attractions in the area, are we then to teach children that it is natural for such an area to exist within a built up area?

The site proposed for the housing development is important for the conservation of some rare birds within the area and therefore building upon this land would be hypocritical, in light of the amazing conservation work that takes place down the road at Slimbridge.

This area is one of the last in Stroud District to not be affected by increased housing and there are many other sites, which already have access to local amenities in Stroud, Gloucester, Tewkesbury and Cheltenham, which would be of a benefit to the local community to improve. Added to which, this being talked about as a walking village is ridiculous, with local towns having plenty of wasteland on the outskirts, which will allow people access to a larger amount of facilities within realistic walking distance. Where are all the cars going to park on these estates? There are many lessons to be learnt from the ongoing crime rates and parking issues within the areas of Quedgeley and Kingsway, with the residential car parks in these areas being completely unkept, with no one taking responsibility for ensuring their maintenance and the council continuing to ignore the fly tipping and drug use in these areas.

Stroud's planning objectives of becoming carbon neutral is not met by this plan - by destroying all local farm land, we are then making the carbon footprint worse by having to outsource produce and increasing pollution.

3) The affect upon local traffic

Currently there are concerns regarding the build up of traffic on the main roads to the motorway and into Stroud with at least 2 cars per home, this is going to impact greatly on the small roundabout joining Slimbridge and Cambrige . The local roads are not designed to cope with this level of traffic. This, already being a main commuter route, is already being put under additional pressures from the current local housing being developed and is going to make commuting unmanageable for all.

4) The sewerage and drainage system - there is already clear evidence stating that there is flooding in the area and that the sewerage system and water system struggles to cope with the houses currently in the area without adding additional homes to this.

5) Noise pollution and traffic pollution

Currently there is a high level of noise pollution from the motorway and main roads. Removing the trees from the end of Dursley Road in order to make this a main walk way and also adding a mound of earth, so called a 'central landscape feature', will have a further impact on this sound, meaning that noise pollutions for the homes on Dursley Road becomes higher. Knowing the land is more than knowing what the land is worth in financial terms. Wilsloe wind is going to mean that these built up areas will create wind tunnels throughout the area that will make the area an unpleasant and noisy place to live for all living in the area. The mound of earth and additional traffic and destroying the current landscape is going to create a pocket of pollution with local children being affected with the longer term implications of this. Yet another example of the isolation of current residents is that the protection from the noise pollution totally disregards those on Dursley road.

Another disregard for the local residents and the landscape, is that the plans for sound barriers to the left and right of Dursley Road will result in a funnel affect, making these houses, the proposed green land and local residents homes, roads and walkways, undesirable to the community both old and new.

6) Slimbridge and Dursley becoming one entity

This would destroy the rural communities of Slimbridge and Wisloe and result in a disjointed community with the social implications of this, predictable and already evidenced within the Quedgley and Kingsway areas. Currently people travel to Slimbridge and the local area for Camping, to access the Slimbridge Wetlands Centre, the canal and idyllic countryside. Why would people who are seeking the country experience, to escape from their busy town lives, then wish to visit an area with cheap houses and a modern built up, area with excess traffic and pollution? It simply does not make sense. From the Ernest Cook Trust Website, ' In the 21st century, this means taking into account the principles of sustainability in its widest sense as well as following the best practices of land management, including the protection of the landscape and heritage assets, and working closely with tenants and local communities.'

Stroud District Council (SDC's) Core Strategy states that it "aims to protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the district".

If this development is to go ahead then the council is clearly not working in line with the current core strategy.

Sustainable farming and local produce is not going to become a reality if the council continue to destroy all the local farm land and wildlife. As far as I can see, this development goes against every single principle of the Ernest Cook Trust, Stroud District Council and more importantly the people of Stroud who I have grown up with and know to be fully in support of the countryside.

7) There are other potential sites where housing can be added to rather than essentially creating a new town

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I totally appreciate the need to meet targets for affordable housing, however, with experience of working in social care with people who are living on a budget, housing set out with a distance between any current social networks is going to increase the isolation for those who are already experiencing difficulties.

Individuals and families on low incomes are going to find transport costs extortionate to get to meaningful employment and with undefined areas of land, which the council will not maintain, the crime rates will increase, as already evidenced in the Quedgeley and Kingsway area. Individuals are going to be socially isolated without local activities and facilities near by. If we are looking at affordable housing then people need a social network, in order for this to be sustainable and to integrate into the community.

Why build a town and put these activities in? The surrounding towns of Stroud, Gloucester and Cheltenham already have opportunities for social activities, amenities, established bus routes and communities, in which people's needs can be met. Bus routes in the area are already unreliable - these plans will be adding a further area on this route, putting further pressure on an already struggling transport system.

With the growing area of Quedgeley and most people commuting to main towns to work, adding on to local smaller sites such as Hardwicke, would be much more in line with the council's priorities for existing communities.

Underrepresented vulnerable people within the area are going to be unable to access these homes or local facilities - elderly people within these homes would be socially isolated with this being a new town set up between existing areas and families less likely to visit regularly than if the homes were on the outskirts of local towns.

These houses are in no way going to be suitable for anyone with a sensory impairment or learning disability, with the amount of noise pollution, traffic and the Wisloe Wind. This housing is therefore not going to meet the wide and varied needs of the population, which the council is there to serve. Vulnerable people are in no way going to be able to use the walk ways outlined in plans for Wisloe, due to the number of houses, small roads and number of cars that will be parked on the sides of roads, wheelchair users will find the area impossible to access.

In relation to the affect on my family, I would like to state that I was heartbroken to hear of the plans for Wisloe Green and surrounding local developments. Just over a year ago my family decided to make the lifestyle change, to purchase our forever home in the country, in order to move my two young sons away from the crime and concerns that are building up within Quedgeley and Kingsway.

The basics of forming any decision is to be truly informed and the only information that we have had, has been through seeking this ourselves through social media and our community. The council, who are there to represent the local residents should have more respect for those living in the area who know and love the land and recognise that this lack of consultation around destroying beautiful countryside, local roads and businesses results in a total lack of trust in the council and this is the message that my children will learn through this development, not 'protection of the landscape'.

Yours sincerely

