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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 21 January 2020 22:40
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Stroud District Local Plan Review - comments

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Hi,

As a resident of Berkeley and after attending the exhibition day at Berkeley town hall I feel that I should write and share my feelings on the planned development for Berkeley, Sharpness and the surrounding area.

The plan for development of the Berkeley and Sharpness area seems over ambitious. I understand there is a requirement for additional housing in this country but I can't support the plan to effectively in-fill the majority of agricultural land between Berkeley and Sharpness with new houses.

The negative impact on the ecology of the area. The loss of habitat for local wildlife. The limited possible transport improvements. The flood risk and the likely increased risk of fluvial flooding due to the covering of the land with houses and roads don't suggest this is a suitable site for such large development plans.

The aim of carbon neutrality will be very hard to achieve. The majority of people will be travelling, by car, to work. If the aim is to reduce car usage, surely it would be better to add the housing to an existing town where additional of public transport would be much easier to provide.

The additional housing planned is disproportionate to the existing infra-structure. The proposed 5000 houses in the Berkeley and Sharpness area would (at least) double the local population. In such a short time, this will not allow the supporting infra-structure to be developed in a sustainable way. The great community feel that makes this area such a nice place to live will be greatly damaged. This is before we even consider the impact on energy supply, water supply, sewerage and sanitation, waste disposal, traffic congestion and pollution, all of which would need significant investment to accommodate such a large expansion.

I don't believe that the proposed development in Berkeley and Sharpness will achieve any of the targets that are laid out in the National Planning Policy Framework other than the target to build a certain number of houses. All the other 'softer' targets which make a place desirable or 'a nice place to live' are unlikely to be achieved. Certainly not in the short term.

If you do need to build in this area – a much (much, much, much) smaller and slower expansion plan would be more appropriate.

Regards,

[REDACTED]