

Local Plan Review
The Planning Strategy Team
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Stroud
GL5 4UB

Wednesday 16th January 2019

Dear

Re: Objection to Local Plan Review, The Emerging Strategy Public Consultation,

I am writing to express my opinion, concerns and objection to the development plans of Stroud District council's emerging strategy.

I am particularly concerned about the houses that are proposed in the fields and countryside around Sharpness and Newtown, Wanswell, Brookend and Hinton. Sharpness Docks, and farmland on the outskirts of Berkeley. The concern is of the volume of houses in a relatively short time.

My specific concerns regarding the development are:

Inadequate infrastructure – the roads into this area are not appropriate for this size of development. The area is essentially not well accessed. There is no school provision, insufficient doctors or hospitals for a sudden increase in population. Resources are already currently stretched.

Employment opportunities – where will the residents in these new homes work? Will the residents be travelling to Bristol to work, or up to Gloucester. This will create traffic exiting and entering the area causing traffic jams and delays (see infrastructure and transport). If retail units are built as part of the development for employment then they are likely to overshadow and drive out local business in the surrounding area i.e. the historic market town of Berkeley.

Transport – there is minimal public transport in the area meaning that residents already rely on their cars. With a population increase in the area so will the number of cars. How will the number of cars get in to and out of the area. In addition to the cars from Sharpness, there will also be an increase in the number of cars from other developments happening towards Thornbury. This will cause an increase in cars accessing the A38 and the M5. The sheer volume of cars will cause gridlock.

Environments and biodiversity – this is a beautiful area of countryside and once built on cannot be replaced.

Impact on existing communities – I live in Berkeley and it is a small community. It is a small town, with a strong community, well established local shops. If a large retail area was to be built as part of this planned development then people would bypass Berkeley town centre and local business would go out of business. A proposed development this large would eclipse Berkeley.

Please listen to my objection to the current plan for housing development in the surrounding areas of Berkeley. I believe strongly that to build in this area will be detrimental to the historic town of Berkeley and surrounding beautiful countryside. It is not well accessed and does not have the employment to sustain a new population. Employment would therefore be commuted to the city of Bristol for which travel is not adequate by car or public transport.

I am also extremely concerned that not many of the residents knew about this consultation. People I have spoken to were not aware that this process was taking place.

Yours faithfully,

