

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 January 2019 21:03
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Stroud District Local Plan Review Emerging Strategy Paper, November 2018: Feedback on proposals relating to the Berkeley Cluster

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm writing with respect to the proposed Local Plan. I have studied the publicly available material, in particular the [Emerging Strategy Paper](#).

As a resident of a listed building in Berkeley High Street, I have a number of concerns. I will raise three here:

- The development at Sharpness is totally disproportionate to the scale of the existing settlements, and runs completely counter to four of the Top 5 Key Issues identified by respondents to the Issues and Options Paper, namely the need to preserve green-field and agricultural sites. Similarly, respondents overwhelming preference for Option 1 has been ignored, in favor of Option 4 (the third choice). What sense is there in seeking responses from the community, if those responses are subsequently dispensed with?
- The access to the main commuter routes (A38 and M5 to Bristol and Gloucester) has been ill-considered. In particular, I am concerned that access to the A38 will not be improved sufficiently to cater for the huge increase in traffic from the proposed development at Sharpness. With tailbacks likely at peak times on the primary junctions, I foresee commuters looking for rat-runs through the narrow lanes in the area. One such route will be through Berkeley High Street. The High Street is one car width wide where it joins Market Place, and one car width for over half its length towards Castle Meadow. The soon-to-be-enforced 3.5 tonne weight limit will ameliorate the damage currently being done to historic buildings. However, I am convinced that these access issues will not be sufficient to discourage frustrated motorists looking for a shortcut. The properties in the High Street immediately abut the pavement, with no front gardens and (since many are listed buildings) no double-glazing. Any increase in traffic, let alone the huge numbers of vehicle movements likely to arise from the proposed Sharpness development, will have an extremely negative impact on residents of Berkeley High Street.
- I disagree with the characterization of Berkeley as offering a 'very good, diverse range of local community services and facilities'. In particular, I would highlight the recent closure of the hospital, the secondary school, the bank, the police station, one of the town centre pubs, and a retail outlet in White Hart Court. Along with the library becoming volunteer-run, these are clear signs that the infrastructure is actually becoming less 'good' and less 'diverse'.

Whilst I fully accept the need for proportionate local development to meet housing needs. I have a strong preference for Option 1 in the original Issues and Options document.

In my opinion, the Sharpness proposal runs roughshod over previously expressed wishes of the residents of the district, will be detrimental to the quality of life of existing Berkeley and Sharpness residents, and will condemn new residents to life in a new community poorly served by facilities and dependent on car journeys.

As a result, I cannot support the Emerging Strategy Paper as currently formed, and wish to register my objection to it.

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Regards

