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To Planning committee

Stroud District council

Local plan review

Stroud district council

Ebley Mill, Stroud, Glos, GL5 4UB

22/12/18

Review of local plan (Emerging strategy)

Stroud District Council  
Planning

02 JAN 2019

Stroud District Council

I wish to strongly register my objection to any proposals for development on any land designated G1 in the consultation document whether the requirement is to provide overspill for Gloucester city council or just to increase the available land within Stroud District council.

In Hardwicke we have already had our allocated share of development at Sellars farm and Hunts Grove. Many people in Hardwicke worked very hard for many years to produce the Hardwicke neighbourhood development plan which outlines suitable areas for building and areas where the people of Hardwicke definitely do not want further development, quite frankly I am appalled at the fact that the land in question is even being considered as it makes a mockery of the whole process in pretending to give residents a voice and then completely ignoring them. I am furious that all the hard work of our parish council in developing the plan and putting it to the residents for a vote is being ignored just because a developer wants to make a quick profit.

I strongly object to any development south of Green Lane not only because it will create traffic carnage as the lanes are only suitable for one car at a time in places and there is no pavement for the children walking to Puddleducks nursery which is along the lane, also the children from Hardwicke school occasionally attend church services and walk to the church, sometimes along the fields as a nature walk as the road is too narrow and they need a rolling roadblock to make it safe to walk down with large numbers of children due to speeding drivers.

Also the school is already over subscribed and we can't just keep building new primary school places but no new secondary schools.

I strongly object on behalf of myself and the many other dog walkers for whom the ancient Glevum way which runs through these fields form part of our daily walk. I know the developers can still maintain a pathway but I personally gain no pleasure from walking along a pavement through a concrete jungle, the pleasure and enjoyment comes from walking through the green fields and admiring the beautiful trees. In the middle of one of these fields is a particularly magnificent Oak tree that has a massive circumference of over 5 metres (520cm) to be precise. This tree is wonderful and stands sentinel in the middle of the meadow that in Spring is full of wildflowers and beautiful butterflies and bees. The thought of it being cut down or swallowed up in the middle of a huge housing estate quite frankly appals me. If ever there was a tree in need of a tree preservation order then it is this wonderful Oak tree which is one of many in the fields in question.

I also strongly object on behalf of all the wonderful wildlife that inhabits these fields. As I have walked these fields twice a day for many years I can tell you that I have been fortunate to observe a beautiful family of foxes, grey squirrels, rabbits and even a hare. There are moles, shrews, field mice and even water voles. I have seen Kingfishers, woodpeckers, heron and buzzards. Last week I saw a

barn owl hunting in daylight which made my soul sing. There are whole families of goldfinches, chaffinch, blue tit, crows and many many more birds including a nightingale. So please do not think these are just empty fields on a map, they are home to a huge number of beautiful creatures who cannot put pen to paper and object to their habitat being bulldozed. These fields do not need more homes being built on them as they are already home to so many animals and birds and insects who have no voice and are not able to come to your meeting to register their objection so it is on their behalf that I am writing to implore you to rethink giving the developers a green light to build where they want.

The reason I moved to Hardwicke was because it was rural and so within two minutes I could walk from my house out into the beautiful green fields and immerse myself in the healing soothing sounds of nature, I love my daily walks through the fields and I am always spotting something new and exciting whether it is finding a pheasants feather or a fossil or catching a glimpse of the water vole, there is always something to bring me joy and I find it has a positive effect on my mental health. My children love seeing what birds they can spot or identifying each new flower as they bloom in Spring. I love the fact that such beauty is right on our doorstep. I do not want to see the day when I have grandchildren and I can only show them pictures of butterflies in a book because there will be none left if their habitat is destroyed. The government is always pushing for people to get out and be more active but in order to do so we need to have somewhere lovely to walk and these fields are loved and walked regularly by many people in Hardwicke please please please do not let the developers destroy this habitat as it my home as much as the animals. Please take heed of the neighbourhood development plan for the sake of democracy listen to the people and the animals and fight for what is right.

[Redacted signature]

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Also signed on behalf of the animals who are the current residents..



