From:
Sent: 04 January 2019 08:52
To: WEB Local Plan

Subject: Re proposal for a housing development at Whaddon

Categories: Consulation response

Re proposed housing development at Whaddon

E-Mail 4th January 2019

To:

Stroud DC Local Plan ~ <u>local.plan@stroud.gov.uk</u>

Dear Sir or Madam,

It was with deep concern that I read of a proposal to build around 2000 new homes on farmland south of Gloucester at Whaddon, covering an area which lies within the control of Stroud District Council and is bounded by the M5 motorway to the south, the A4173 to the east, the railway to the west and extending northwards to Grange Road, Tuffley.

Concern for the future of the quality of life for people living in Gloucester lies with the sheer scale of developments which are now proposed and that <u>farmland</u> is to be built on. It brings a dramatic rise in the human population for this area immediately abutting Tuffley. Congestion on our roads is bound to get far worse. The A4173 Stroud Road is not a wide road and has limited capacity for widening between Grange Road and St Barnabas. The central white line and cats eyes have been removed and extra wide cycle lanes now guide oncoming vehicles towards the crown of the road. The resulting width allowed for vehicles is not sufficient for them to pass each other safely, unless one or both drive on the section marked as a cycle lane. This is especially relevant when approaching a large oncoming vehicle like an HGV or bus. This section of the A4173 will struggle to safely cope with a possible additional 2 to 4000 or more extra vehicles at peak times, should the Whaddon development plan be approved.

Congestion is "built in" to several intersections on Gloucester the ring road and with the prospect of many thousands more cars to be added to the rush hour traffic this will only get worse. Ideally traffic light systems at junctions on roundabouts should assist in the smooth flow of vehicles and keep congestion to a minimum. At present there are locations on the Gloucester ring road where pelican crossings are situated immediately at a junction on a roundabout and for one person to cross the whole junction grinds to a halt. The most practical option is to have the traffic flow controlled by the traffic lights which have an optional built in pedestrian phase. The increased traffic on Stroud Road that this development will bring will heighten the necessity for St Barnabas Roundabout to be traffic light controlled as well and will have a direct negative impact on air pollution levels for people living in Tuffley.

To allow so much building on green field sites on the outskirts of Gloucester, but within the boundaries of Stroud District, will not only have a detrimental effect on the quality of life for the people of Tuffley, it will bring no benefit to Gloucester from the Council Tax paid by those additional households.

Regards,

Copies to:

Richard Graham MP ~ richard4gloucester@gmail.com
Colin Organ Tuffley Councillor ~ colin.organ@gloucester.gov.uk