

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 January 2019 08:55
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: FW: Subject: Berkeley Vale Housing and Infrastructure

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 January 2019 17:16
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Subject: Berkeley Vale Housing and Infrastructure

To [REDACTED]

Please find enclosed our comments on the Stroud Planning Proposals for the Local Planning Review.

Subject: Berkeley Vale Housing and Infrastructure

Review of current planning.

Major Topics:

Employment

Settlement has to be proportional to the prospects for employment. As far as I can see the area of The Berkeley Vale under consideration does not have any prospect of a significant boost in the number of job vacancies. A large increase in housing must include a large increase in local jobs. Failure to provide this increase can only generate incoming commuter families and commuter traffic.

Medical Facilities

Existing facilities already stretched. Berkeley GP clinic can hardly cope with existing population. A large expansion to Sharpness could well require a new clinic. This provision will need to be in place and up and running way before before development completion.

Education

Settlement increase of up to five thousand homes could result in an additional ten thousand children of school age, toddler thru to uni. Very basic figures I know but how are the local schools to cope. The currant proposals have nothing to say on this major topic. Both Rednock and KLB are at capacity and the primary schools are no better placed to accommodate these children. Berkeley's own secondary school being shut down and hived off years ago so no longer available.

Highways

District roadways have always received little attention from the local authorities. The only upgrade in the last decades was the building of the Berkeley bypass for Berkeley Power Station.

Even then only phase one and two were actually constructed. Phase three the last section to the A38 never started.

I assume that the planning proposal talk of A38 and M5 corridor accommodating the extra traffic will mean the local roads will be upgraded.

If not I cannot see how the extra traffic, cars, trucks, delivery vans etc will cope without increasing the currently fairly low incidence of road accidents.

Shopping-Banking

An increase in the local population would be of obvious benefit to the existing shops and stores providing they were not swamped by the construction of a single new multi-store.

The current planning gives no information on this.

Banking has virtually ceased to exist in Berkeley and is down to a single facility in Dursley. Would an increase in customers help. I guess probably not.

Policing

The more houses, the more people the more the potential for crime.

Has any consideration been given to this aspect of development. Policing in the district is very low key and I hope it will be able to stay that way.

Civil Facilities

Library. Is any consideration being given to upgrading-expansion of this institution.

Connectivity

Broadband has always been an issue in this area. Poor to awful being the norm. I can't see a large number of additional houses helping the issue. More lines more overloaded exchanges.

In Review

We have lived in Halmore for the last thirty years. In that time we have seen local facilities disappear one by one while the population in the general area has steadily risen.

Traffic has increased both private and commercial while the road system has quietly crumbled.

An increase to the population density of this area can only be acceptable if the basic infrastructure and all its shortcomings are addressed first. Houses are quick to build, schools and medical facilities are not.

Conclusion:

Limited development would seem both practicable and sensible. Local and affordable housing would benefit the existing local community while accommodating some inward movement.

It would be manageable without swamping local services, and could help to increase the provision of more diverse shopping and other community facilities.

However the current proposals go way beyond benefiting the existing community and could blight this district for many years to come. We therefore express our objection to the development plans as currently stated.

