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STEWART & SONS LTD

17 JAN 2019

16<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Regarding the local Plan, strategy for Berkeley and Sharpness area.

I have recently seen in the Berkeley Flyer magazine that there are plans for a huge number of houses in our area to meet apparently local need. The figures quoted range from 3000 to 5000. I have lived in Berkeley for almost 50 years and I agree that there needs to be some new housing so that local families can stay in an area that they love. My children have had to move to be able to afford somewhere to live. Some of the housing needs to be aimed at young families and be affordable but the area definitely does not need 3 – 5000 new houses to meet this need. This amount of houses is completely disproportionate to the local demand. It would be much better to add some houses to the existing villages of Wanswell, Brookend, Sharpness and Newtown. Berkeley is already getting houses built at Canonbury Rise.

The area has got busier during the last 50 years with many more cars on the roads which have suffered as a result. We have recently had some of the potholes filled thankfully. However, the amenities in the area have decreased. We have no longer got a hospital, bank, cinema, or secondary school. The local bus service has shrunk and people that live here now are almost totally reliant on cars. The local comprehensive that I attended is now private. Admittedly there is a new development at the power station but it is not a general secondary school that takes pupils from 11. The 2 junior schools in the area are very good but could not possibly cope with a huge influx of children. This would result in more cars ferrying children out of the area. The doctors surgery has struggled in the last year to cope with the current population, at one point being down to one doctor. We are told to drive to Dursley Vale Hospital for urgent appointments. I have always worked in Berkeley, had my children in Berkeley maternity hospital. My father was looked after by local doctors that he knew and died in Berkeley hospital. The infrastructure of our town has disappeared and now you want to bring in thousands of houses when there are so few facilities. I am sure that a developer would say they would add on to the school and new facilities would be built. I think that developers are only interested in building houses. They would not make any profit from building schools and a new doctors surgery. The current surgery does not have any room for expansion as the old hospital is now very expensive flats and the land behind it houses.

There is little employment in the area as it is. Most people commute to the large towns and cities and the motorway is already a nightmare with its traffic lights that need to be switched off at rush hour. I cannot see how the local roads would cope getting cars from this huge new estate to the A38. Berkeley and Sharpness would be joined and the small villages of Wanswell and Brookend would be swallowed up in the development. The whole nature of our beautiful area would vanish under a housing estate that would not be for or benefit

local people. I expect they would do their shopping on line or in out of town supermarkets and there would be no extra trade in Berkeley town shops.

I really feel that the whole strategy for the area is wrong. We do not need or want a huge development of houses built on green fields that would destroy the habitat of wild life. It would be much better to build a smaller number of houses by the villages in the way it has been sensitively done in the past ie at Newtown. I hope my concerns are taken seriously as I know that everyone in the area I have spoken to feel that this number of houses will destroy our villages and medieval town.

Thank you for your attention

