

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 January 2020 20:21
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Objection to “natural settlements” at Sharpness and Berkeley

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Dear sir/madam,

I write to object to the proposal in Stroud District Council’s local/emerging plan for an absolutely monumental housing development of 5,000 houses in the coming years at Sharpness and Berkeley. I moved from London 6 years ago for the sole purpose of moving away from heavily built up and congested areas, to live a rural life where there are more green fields than there are buildings. It truly breaks my heart that such a huge development could be considered on green field sites which literally define the heart, soul and character of this beautiful and unspoilt area. To me the need for people who have both grown up in rural areas and also those who have moved to rural areas have to have their way of life respected. Having a monumental housing development which increases the size of this community by 6 or 7 times and turns the few small villages in which we live into a huge town is unthinkable, soul destroying and causes total irreparable loss of countryside and rural way of life.

The need for housing in this country is driven by a flawed system which allows those who can afford it to invest in housing stock and turns the right for people to be able to live under a roof at a price they can afford into a supply and demand profit driven economic game. It is well documented in papers such as “land for the many, not the few” by George Monbiot and others the failings of the system and shows that the subsequent “crisis” we find ourselves is now driving councils such as Stroud to identify huge areas of green field land and propose permanently destroying something so precious and important as our countryside and our rural living. It’s clear how such a proposal of building so many houses on green land will go down with our community as the words “natural” and “green” etc have had to be peppered throughout the proposals by developers who’s sole purpose is to make money from destroying the natural and green land. Land existing without any need for it to make a profit is now something that seems to be only of the past. The value placed on green fields existing to sustain human beings within a fragile ecosystem is fundamental to our very existence, both physically and mentally, yet it seems that developers and land owners, who are also the only individuals who will make any money from this land, are now the voices that councils all over the country are forced to listen to.

In rural areas people have chosen to live here for a reason, we care about conserving the wildlife, the fields, the hedgerows and a natural way of being, living in a town that I never wanted to live in or chose to be a part of is something I cannot fathom having to do.

I would be heartbroken to think that this massive, badly thought out, profit driven development could actually be allowed to go ahead. I think it’ll be clear moving forward however that it can’t due to a huge number of issues in the planning, consultation and due diligence by SDC and with legal advice I’m hoping it will slowly become clear to the council.

We live in fragile partnership with this beautiful world that we have been fortunate and privileged enough to have been given, yet another irreparable mistake need not go ahead if those on charge of making these decisions make a stand and decide there is another way. Landowners looking to make a quick easy uplifted profit at the cost of losing this countryside forever is a travesty. We must value this land, it is not anyone’s right to put a value on it.

With a heavy heart, but also with hope that this proposal will be seen for the travesty it truly is, I thank you for taking the time to read my objection.

[REDACTED]