

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 October 2020 17:21
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Stroud District Local Plan Review: Additional housing options consultation

Categories: Consultation response

Dear Sir/Madam

I have received an email for your Authority regarding the above Consultation and have some questions prior to providing my views.

1. Has SDC or any other planning authority within Gloucestershire given consideration to the potential impact Covid 19 will have on future office and retail space (existing and proposed) within the County? It appears to me from reading the news etc.. that many companies throughout the UK and presumably Gloucestershire too are looking to reduce their office /retail space in the future due to the success in homeworking/increase online shopping. This begs the question what is going to happen with the redundant office and retail space? Surely, these spaces should be used for housing, where appropriate, rather than development eating into the countryside creating more and more urban sprawl and leaving existing offices/shops derelict within the inner and outer town/city sites. Surely, the Government should ask all planning authorities to put any increase in housing quota on hold until we see the long term effects of Covid.

2. The Government appears to have a strong desire to support the towns and cities in the North. Indeed, the Conservative Government is presently planning to set up a northern office in recognition of the need to support these areas. Clearly, large urban areas in the north require much investment and plenty of vacant land is available for industry and housing. Surely, it makes sense to invest in the North, provide Government incentives etc.. rather than spoil many areas in the South by over populating etc...

I live in Cam and we are already seeing the detrimental impact new development is having on Cam and Dursley - demands for schools places, parking, doctors etc... At the end of the day, Cam and Dursley, like many Cotswold towns and villages, simply does not have the infrastructure to support huge increases in the population and it is impossible to adequately improve the road networks into these areas. I live in an ever increasing dormitory village which surely is not sustainable or good planning in 2020!

I have copied in our local MP and welcome all of your views.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards.

[REDACTED]