

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2019 09:33
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Proposed housing estate at Cam/Slimbridge

Sir

I have received two leaflets regarding these proposals, and if this indeed A Plan, then I am horrified!

I have to admit that "loss of village identity" would not be top of my list of concerns, but the pressure on local infrastructure and damage to the rural nature of the area certainly WOULD!

I can't believe that there are no brown field sites that could be used, and that planning permission would be given to create a vast estate that would link up with the already huge one at The Halt, near Cam and Dursley station. Just how much is green belt/arable land worth these days? Not much, it seems, when these conditions can be side-stepped so easily.

Can we assume that, if this plan for 1500 MORE houses on those fields were to go ahead, it would include a new school? Slimbridge school could no doubt be extended, but already it creates a nightmare scenario with traffic twice a day. The road into the village is completely unsuitable, either as simple access or, as is the dangerous case now, mass parking. It's totally ridiculous.

I accept that more housing is needed, but the scattered villages in the area are crying out for "affordable" housing, (not that these new ones will be any more "affordable" than any other, I daresay), so why cannot housing developments be undertaken in smaller sites, shared out between the villages? If the hook on which this proposed development hangs IS the "affordable housing" hook, can you safeguard it from multiple purchases by buy-to-let customers? If not, the whole thing is a farce.

The roads in the area are already inadequate - as an example, one only has to use the Stroud by-pass. That is a road now completely not up to coping with the volume of traffic it serves. The A38 - a MAJOR NATIONAL ARTERIAL ROAD - is narrow, full of potholes, and is not up to another several thousand cars, plus service vehicles, constantly using it. As to the more minor roads into Cam, (station, Tesco's, school), Dursley, (hospital, schools, Sainsbury's, etc) and Slimbridge, how on earth could they cope adequately? Are we to have a massive expansion of roads, more roundabouts, endless traffic lights, as well as all these houses? So much for preserving a rural area..... or is the Local Plan a long-term creation of a conurbation, creating a substantial town incorporating Cam, Dursley, Cambridge, and Slimbridge? If so, planners had better get their heads around a proper traffic system, adequate sewage, enough school places, health and hospital provision, more shops, garages, railway station car parks that are large enough, etc etc. If such a "plan" were to go ahead piecemeal, the results would be practically and aesthetically catastrophic.

The whole business is scandalous!

Yours

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