

Stroud District Council  
Received

16 JAN 2020

Local Plan Review

The Planning Strategy Team

Stroud District Council

Ebley Mill

Stroud GL5 4UB

Development Service

Dear Sir / Madam,

Reference: Wisloe Development

15<sup>th</sup> January 2020

I am writing to make my feelings known and clear regarding the proposed draft strategy and local plan for Wisloe. Whilst I acknowledge the need for a development to support a growing population, I do not support the plan for Wisloe, and the proposal as it stands to create one homogenous development that encapsulates several small villages from the Cotswold AONB through to the Severn Vale. My reasons are numerous and noted below, and I would be grateful for you considering these points ahead of the conclusion to the consultation period on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020

Firstly, I find the proposed scheme contradicts several the stated objectives of the planning strategy of Stroud District Council, whilst also ignoring some of its own development principles.

- a) The proposed development at Wisloe lies in very close proximity to the River Cam. Even before development this water course has a long history of flooding and struggles to cope with the current pressures upon it. The local pumping station has also failed on numerous occasions due to the volumes of water following weather events. A development scheme of the magnitude proposed at Wisloe will have a devastating effect on the River Cam, and the supporting drainage infrastructure. The development of housing on what is currently open and free draining land will remove the ability of the land to absorb rainwater, instead the runoff will be forced into the localised drainage system that currently struggles to cope before any development
- b) In addition, the policy also *claims to want to minimise and mitigate against future flood risks, to recycle water resources and to protect and enhance the quality of the districts surface and groundwater resources*. Clearly, the Wisloe proposal stands to do the opposite of this and puts at great risk the local drainage regime, substantially enhancing the risks of widespread flooding, and degradation of the ground water quality.
- c) The current land use at Wisloe is agricultural, and the land here has been designated as Grade 2 by Natural England, which is defined as "**Good Agricultural Land**" This contradicts **strategy SO5 Climate Change and**

more measured and considered approach should be considered that allows limited development that comply with your stated strategic imperatives.

**Yours Faithfully,**

