

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** \_WEB\_Local Plan  
**Subject:** Local Plan - Sharpness Area  
**Categories:** Consultation response

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing with regards to my disapproval of the proposed development of at least 2,400 homes in the Sharpness/Berkeley area. The reasons for my disapproval can be found detailed below.

**Transport** - This area is not blessed with an abundance of regular or accessible public transport. The bus services are infrequent in this area and if you wished to travel further out the area on the train you'd need to travel to Cam & Dursley station which again face similar issues with hourly services into Gloucester and Bristol away from rush hour. This means if the bus times didn't coincide with the train times then you could be waiting a considerable length of time between arriving at the station and actually getting on your train, which are not cheap. Relying on public transport in this area is time consuming and overly expensive for the services which are provided. I believe it is the elderly and non drivers whom especially suffer from the lack of transport in the area.

**Infrastructure** - This area currently faces problems with infrastructure so by building further houses this is only going to have a detrimental impact on an already significant issue. The main road through Sharpness, Oldminster Road, is constantly filled with parked cars along the side of the road resulting in limited passing points when cars meet each other along this road. Furthermore, when the refuse lorry is present in the area this again causes a problem in the area. There is very few places along this road which are feasible for the lorry to park up or move over to let cars past. Majority of homes in the area seem to have multiple cars which would result in an c4500 cars in this local area on roads which simply can not cope. There is a constant problem with the lack of parking in Berkeley as well as the area around the only shop in Sharpness, Mace. The lack of parking is likely to deter people from stopping therefore, returning at a later time in the day meaning two journey's have been made which is additional unnecessary pollution added to the environment. It is not just the immediate local area which would suffer from the additional cars. I travel to Bristol to work, due to the lack of well paid opportunities locally, and the Falfield motorway junction can only be described as horrendous at rush hour. When I left my home in Sharpness at 08:00a.m to travel to Bristol, the queue stretched back into Stone and was showing evidence of close to no movement. A similar issue can be found when travelling to Gloucester as the Hardwicke roundabout also generates substantial queues down the A38 also expanding down the motorway. How are both these destinations meant to cope with the additional pressures the housing would bring? Queuing cars will significantly add to the air pollution being generated in the area which damages the air quality.

Moreover, there is a serious lack of what could be deemed basic services in the local area. Banks, major shops, schools are all in short supply. Both Berkeley and Sharpness Primary do not have infinite capacity and plans to expand either of these or build a new Primary School would need teaching posts filled. It is common knowledge the teaching profession is one that is struggling to would these additional posts be filled by inadequate personnel whom don't deliver a good quality of teaching in the local area? The local Secondary School has recently been lost meaning students are being bussed to Rednock or KLB, this is additional travel which again contributes to increased air pollution, these schools also don't have infinite capacity, buses are currently quite full so the possibility of an additional bus being run is something which needs to be considered. Another bus would mean more pollution. The local doctors in Berkeley seems to be in turmoil with lengthy waiting times and a lack of decent doctors, how are they meant to cope with any additional personnel when they can't cope with what is currently being presented to them?

**Biodiversity** - This area currently has a good level of greenfield sites whilst there are other areas within the Gloucester/Stroud region which occupy various derelict brownfield sites. As far as considering the biodiversity goes, building on already used brownfield sites is much more environmentally friendly than destroying well preserved greenfield sites. Whilst in the local area, even just down the Sharpness park, I have seen various wildlife such as badgers, foxes and even deer. The animals obviously live in and around the surrounding area therefore, by building new homes in the proposed areas would be intruding on their homes and negatively impacting their livelihood. By building a more eco-friendly solution such as a solar panel farm for example, animals can still graze the fields and there would not be the indefinite increase in air pollution more homes would bring.

**Employment** - There is no shying away from the fact that if an individual were to stay in the local area for employment they would seriously struggle to earn the wages which enable comfortable living. Well paid job opportunities and businesses which provide a realistic chance of serious progression through the ranks are few and far between in this area which is why many people decide to either work in Gloucester or Bristol as that is where the opportunities are. Due to being such a secluded area it is natural that the area will not attract or demand the significant wages due to there not being the degree of work which requires these wages to be paid.

I would like to finish with noting that this area is situated next to a decommissioned nuclear power station which holds radioactive waste in a bunker. This is not an ideal situation for anyone and if anything were to go wrong in with this bunker then the resulting implications are awful. Yes I accept the chances are small but the chances are not impossible. Finally the survey itself is completely unrealistic, it takes far too long and I imagine many people begin to lose interest after only being part way through well into an hour in.

Regards,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the author.