

18th Jan 2020

To whom it may concern.

I have to write a letter to you in regards to the planned 5000 house in the Berkeley area. I have lived in the local area all my life as have my family before me going back to the 1700's. The idea of this beautiful part of Gloucestershire being ruined by mass housing deeply saddens and dismays me.

In regards to the plans I have objections with the following:

1-Ensuring the new housing development is located in the right place, supported by the right services and infrastructure to create sustainable development- I have to question what services you speak of? Buses are all being cut, we have lost our hospital, dentist and secondary school and both Primary schools are full. Already the bypass is busy with the lorries thundering up and down for the jocks and the roads are filled with horrific potholes.

2- Conserving and enhancing Stroud districts countryside and biodiversity, including maximising the potential for a green infrastructure across the district.- How does building 5000 houses in a single area on green fields do that? Potential for green infrastructure across the district-how will we be green when a minimum of 5000 cars are driving out of the area to work in surrounding areas ie. Bristol, Gloucester, Cheltenham. The business park will not accommodate all these new people.

3- Maximising the potential of brownfield and underused sites to contribute to housing supply- The vast majority of the planned development is green fields, destroying a beautiful ancient landscape that is recognised as a special site because of the Severn estuary.

4-Developing strategies to avoid, reduce and mitigate the indirect impacts of development on the natural environment- HOW?! How will this development reduce impacts on the environment, its massive!! We are close to known flood areas, how will the area cope when all the fields have gone and been filled with concrete?

5- Tackling the acute lack of affordable housing in the district -I agree that we need some housing , but judging by the new building project at Canonbury rise, I am not hopefully that the new houses are truly affordable. I understand that 'affordable' actually means you only own 80% of the build, the rest is rent, and usually only a 5% deposit. However, the market price of these houses is still inflated

6- Disrespecting the unique and rural nature of this area: The villages will lose their identity as they will all have this development surrounding them and in effect be massed into a giant estate like Yate or Quedgeley. This feels counter to Stroud's policy of protecting villages. I think that the plan should look at other areas that Stroud said in 2011 were Preferred areas of growth rather than threaten a unique landscape with irreversible damage.

If this draft plan goes to inspection I would like this letter shown to the inspectorate.

Sincerely

