

From: [REDACTED]
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To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Stroud District Council Local Plan Review - Proposals for Housing Development in Sharpness.

Categories: Consultation response

The Local Plan Review

The Planning Strategy Team
Stroud District Council
Ebley Mill
Stroud
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Stroud District Council Local Plan Review - Proposals for Housing Development in Sharpness.

I am writing to register my concerns about the proposals in the Local Plan for a large-scale housing development at Sharpness, Glos.

I am a resident in the area and would identify myself as part of the Berkeley Vale 'cluster'. My email address is as above.

My view is that the proposals for Sharpness are entirely inappropriate to the area.

There are real and unanswered concerns about the impact of such a large-scale development on the local environment, the local landscape, existing local communities, and the already-inadequate local services and infrastructure.

But the greatest concern of all is the siting of such a large residential development in an area which can offer little or no employment to new residents. There is no credible prospect of the area providing employment, either now or in the near or medium term, for even a fraction of the new households proposed. It is hard to see that a development on this scale at this site could result in anything other than a "sink estate" of high unemployment and economic deprivation.

Any suggestion that the development might result in some form of commuter town, serving employment opportunities further afield at more distant towns and conurbations, indicates that a site, or sites, closer to any of these employment hubs would be the much more appropriate decision. Further, public transport provision to Sharpness is very poor and not able even to service commuters from Sharpness to local small towns, let alone to towns or cities at some distance.

The logic of siting a significant large residential development in such a relatively remote and economically 'undynamic' area is not at all clear.

I would like also to register a concern about the process of consultation about the plan with local residents. There is very low awareness in the local area of the planned development or of the council's consultation processes. It is not obvious that the methods chosen to inform and engage the local population will result in anything that might honestly be described as a meaningful consultation.

For those few local residents who have become aware of the current online survey for example, I know of many who have, like me, abandoned attempts to complete the survey online. It is simply unmanageable. Some, but not all, will go on to find time to email

before the deadline. But it would be travesty if the number of completed surveys were to be taken as any guide as to the level of concern in the community about this plan.

