

## **Stroud District Council**

### **Local Plan Review Emerging Strategy**

#### **Response from Hardwicke Parish Council**

The Parish Council's response has a main focus on Making Places – Gloucester's Rural Fringe; comments on some of the other aspects of the strategy are also commented upon.

The Parish Council does not support the inclusion of area G1 South of Hardwicke as a potential area to contribute to the needs of Gloucester City. The area is outside the Settlement Development Limit and any development in this area would destroy the rural nature and character of the area.

Significantly, the Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan clearly identified the need ensure the rural nature of the area be maintained. Any further development would be contrary to the adopted NDP.

The rural nature of Hardwicke is much valued by residents and provides a valuable wildlife area leading down to and alongside the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal

The Emerging Strategy recognises that Hardwicke is a third tier settlement and has a basic level of services and facilities. Any further development in Hardwicke Village would be a strain on these local services and schools.

Of major concern to residents is the highway impact of any development in the area. The three main roads in and around the village are rural lanes which are narrow with limited amount of footpath alongside the highway. The current level and speed of traffic along these lanes is regularly highlighted by residents and any further development would be detrimental to road safety within the area

It is recognised that Stroud District Council does have a duty to co-operate with its neighbours, however that does not dictate that land be provided for development. Indeed, it can be argued that Gloucester City and its JCS partners can provide land within their area yet seem to be unable to agree amongst themselves where that should be

The Parish of Hardwicke has, within its boundary, Hunts Grove, which is a significant development and when complete will provide 2500 homes for the district. This development and the further extension has been supported by the Parish Council and is recognised as providing a sustainable local community.

## **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

It would appear that key elements of the Hardwicke Neighbourhood Development Plan, particularly the Future Housing Needs Assessment and Landscape Character Assessment, are given limited weight and influence in the Emerging Strategy. A lot of work was undertaken in developing the NDP and it is disappointing that this work does not achieve recognition within the Emerging Strategy. The area G1 on page 76 of the emerging strategy has been earmarked for development, despite much of the area being identified as a mix of open space important to the community and designated Local Green Space.

## **Gloucester's Rural Fringe**

The title 'Gloucester Fringe' gives the impression that these villages are part of Gloucester and does not fully recognise that they are an integral part of the Stroud District. The close proximity of Hardwicke to the Canal and River Severn would perhaps suggest that it would be more appropriately based within the Severn vale Cluster. Indeed it works closely with those neighbouring villages as part of the Severn Voice group of parishes.

## **Summary**

Remove the area G1 from the Local Plan Emerging Strategy

The Hardwicke NDP is given full weight and consideration in the Local Plan

Hardwicke Parish Council is removed from the Gloucester Fringe Cluster and forms part of the Severn Vale Cluster.

Hardwicke Parish Council

January 2019

