

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 January 2020 22:10
To: _WEB_Local Plan
Subject: Objection to development at the Berkeley Cluster - Berkeley and Sharpness

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Stroud District Council

I am writing to object to the proposal to build approximately 5,000 homes across the Berkeley and Sharpness areas.

The proposed development is similar in size to the existing town of Dursley, and having moved from the Cam/Dursley area 6 years ago in order to live in the countryside, I am saddened to hear that the unique and beautiful fields I love are being considered for mass development. My key concerns are:

Environment and wildlife

Building on this scale and in this location will have an irreversible impact on the area and the wildlife who enjoy a life here. We would risk losing important wildlife in this SPA/SAC and SSSI wildlife designated area. I appreciate that you are not directly building on the banks of the Severn, but there will inevitably be increased use of the riverbank as a place of recreation, which would adversely affect the winter wading birds who roost on the adjacent grassland. The proposed SANG will not restrict all walkers to that section alone, and does not service the whole proposed development area.

Along with the unique riverbank, the fields which are proposed for development are a highly attractive feature that would be lost forever, and Berkeley town and Sharpness would be swallowed up by a vastly larger development of new homes.

Roads and Transport

Berkeley and Sharpness are situated off of the A38, but all access roads have been the cause of a great deal of dissent in the local area. Alkington Lane is inappropriate for the many trucks that currently use it due to the soft verges, Berkeley Heath cannot be extended or widened to cope with additional traffic, and Halmore Lane which is opposite my home, is a winding country lane which also would not be able to support the huge amount of additional traffic.

The laughable proposal for the rail link to be reinstated is not a workable solution for anyone – it only allows travel northwards, and would require a change of train at Cam & Dursley in order to continue the journey North or change direction South. I cannot imagine anyone would choose this commute.

There are no other options to improve the transport links.

Schools and facilities

The proposal contains plans to extend the existing primary schools and add a new “education campus” but there is already not enough school places for people in the current area, let alone adding several thousand homes. In 2018, we applied to KLB school for our eldest son, and despite being in the catchment area for the school, it was oversubscribed and local people, including us, could not be accommodated. We had to go through the very difficult appeal process in order to secure a place at this school, and the school have had to go over their published numbers to fit us in.

This situation will only get worse with the addition of many more homes.

The other proposals for new facilities to be added to the area, will not be progressed until the vast majority of housing has been built, so this will be too late for current residents to enjoy.

For the reasons listed above, this proposal is completely inappropriate for the local area and on a disproportionate scale. Current and future infrastructure plans make this completely unsupportable and a poor choice of area to develop. I accept that we will need to accommodate some additional housing, but this should be in proportion to the existing properties and landscape.

With kind regards



Wanswell

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