

BROOKTHORPE WITH WHADDON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE STROUD DISTRICT EMERGING PLAN MEETING HELD ON 6th
PRESENT

Messrs Steve Betts [Chairman], J Hendry, D Kaspar, Mrs Lynda King, David Drew MP, Cllrs Gerald Dee and Colin Organ [Gloucester City Council], Haydn Jones [District Councillor, Berkeley Vale Ward], Paul Gaze, Eric Hibbert, Mrs A Szabo [Parish Clerk] and 23 members of the public.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D Mossman [District Councillor], Cllr. Andy Buckmaster [Harescombe Parish Council]
There were no other apologies given for absence.

EMERGING LOCAL PLAN

Cllr Haydn Jones gave a background account on the Local Plan, the Duty to Co-operate, the Joint Core Strategy (JCS), results of legal advice and where that leaves land at Whaddon and Hardwicke today. It was explained that on QC advice, great care would now be needed to change the approach by the District Council into the Duty to Co-operate at this stage. Until final figures for Gloucester's allocation of new houses, due out in September, it will remain unclear if the Duty to Co-operate will need to be invoked, and if so, how many houses this will involve. Concerns have been raised that not all available land suitable for additional housing has been identified by the JCS. It was stressed that once the figures were available, they would be scrutinized and fully tested by the District Council. The next round of consultation into the District's Local Plan is due out in the Autumn and adoption is anticipated in 2021/22 after inspection and approval.

DAVID DREW MP

David drew stated that he felt it unfair and undeliverable that the Stroud District was being asked to allocate an extra 40% of housing on top of its original allocation, which has already been included in the current Local Plan. He felt that Councils should challenge these figures. He strongly felt that there is a need to keep a green wedge between Gloucester City and Stroud District.

COLIN ORGAN (GLOUCESTER CITY MAYOR) AND GERALD DEE (COUNCILLOR FOR TUFFLEY)

Colin Organ stated that he has always objected to land at Whaddon being developed. However, Gloucester City has restricted capacity within its boundaries. He agreed that the green wedge is important to tourism and that the road network, into the city, is already operating at over capacity. He strongly felt that regeneration of the city should come before any development on green land in order to keep the city alive. Gerald Dee raised concerns about the money needed to enable St Barnabas roundabout to cope with the demand at present, without the increased pressure of such a huge increase that 2/3000 extra homes would entail. The County Highways Department can not raise the £30/40 M estimated cost, and developers certainly would only contribute a small amount to this. He also highlighted concerns about the local railway bridges that are low and only single track.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

Mr Paul Gaze outlined the history of the site, that has not been included in any Transport Plan, Local Plan or their policies up until now. The highway network for the area is already operating over capacity. As the plan stands at present, Wimpey Taylor proposes to have two exits onto the Stroud Road, and a further exit onto the single-track Naas Lane.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Parish Councillor Dave Kaspar raised concerns over the carbon footprint and flooding during unpredictable weather events. He also raised concerns regarding the influence large builders hold and to the sustainability of new homes built by big businesses solely for profit.

CONCLUSION

The Parish Council Chairman, Steve Betts, urged all those present to engage with the next round of consultation due out in the Autumn and thanked all for attending.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10.

Chairman

Date