

Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDXA-Y

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-03-16 02:33:52**

Your details

What is your name?

Forename:

Alan

Surname:

Debenham

Are you making an individual response or on behalf of an organisation?

Individual

If individual, please tell us what type:

Resident of Somerset West and Taunton

Name of organisation:

Member of Green Party and Somerset Co-operative Community Land Trust and Parish Councillor

Please choose one from the drop-down list:

Other

What is your (personal/organisational) address?

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████████████████████

██████████
██████████

What is your email address?

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1. Overview and objectives

Do you agree that these are the right Objectives for the Local Plan?

Disagree

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

I fully support the submission from Steve Howell, Co-operative Development Officer of the Somerset Co-op Community Land Trust (SCCLT) - of which I am the Board Chairman - regarding the importance of a big inclusion of 'community' generated housing development , and SME workshop development, which ranges from that coming from CLTs, housing co-operatives, self-build groups, etc. with a bigger new emphasis on 'communal' housing. All of this becomes increasingly more urgent as climate emergency and its catastrophic effects of environmental, social and economic breakdown truly hits home, with 'tipping point' acceleration reducing all economic activity to proven essential life-and-limb need only. In other words, present 'business as usual' blather from politicians continuing planning for yet more spending consumption, more jobs, more growth and materialistic prosperity, will fairly rapidly BE FORCED to reverse to real 'emergency' planned reduction-based recession, with big fall in GDP , work, consumer spending, food/goods and transport miles, etc. purely for us all to survive in the chaotic climate and big rising sea-levels now being imminent well before the turn of the century. (Ref. the latest BBC Climate Report re tipping point and latest unprecedented situation of Moscow's mean winter temperature and Russia's probably doomed Siberian methane-locked permafrost ocean.) Our only salvation will rest very soon entirely in our ability to achieve BIG ECONOMIC REDUCTION coupled with BIG CULTURAL/ARTISTIC EXPANSION via co-operative intimate localism and sharing, with houses and their enormous consumerist environmental attack , occupied by 2 adults and 1.4 children, very much obsolete.

2. Carbon neutrality

Question 1a: Should we aim to require that all newdevelopment is 'zero carbon' by as soon as possible (e.g. by 2025) or give slightly more time (e.g. by 2030) for developers to adapt their design approaches, materials and suppliers?

As soon as possible (e.g. by 2025)

Question 1b: Should we allocate sites for specific renewable energy development or identify broad areas which we consider suitable?

A combination of both of the above

Question 1c: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Please see my comments on Q1 where it becomes obvious that this whole idea that we can survive the looming environmental catastrophe by revamp and mitigation of our past wanton capitalist consumerist greed, still including business-as-usual more growth, jobs, and prosperity etc., is fantasy and everything we plan or do now MUST BE A REVERSAL of everything from basic culture and lifestyle upwards. In other words, our whole philosophy of life has to change from its current predominance of 'having' and 'doing' to one of 'human being' (e.g consciousness and mind development with worship of 'mother nature' as a concept of all life on earth, certainly without our ego-ridden assumption of 'it' having a human father-christmas-like loving omnipotence).

3. Sustainable locations

Question 2a: Do you agree with the tiers that identifies Taunton followed by 6 tiers covering the other settlements?

No

If not, what changes would you make and why? (200 words max):

Again in the light of my comments on Issue1 and Issue 2 most of this is an exercise in semantics, but with this in mind it stands the test of business-as-usual development sense without dealing with the real dramatic problems ahead - e.g. the enforced renaissance of societal localism and communal socialism.

Question 2b: Do you think Watchet and Williton should be seen as associated settlements for the purposes of the Local Plan due to their close proximity and in complementing the services of each other (and therefore be in a higher tier to Bishops Lydeard and Wiveliscombe)?

Yes - Watchet and Williton should be seen as associated settlements

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

Question 2c: Do you think we should carry on with the way housing is currently distributed across our area (see pie chart) or should we be doing something different, such as one of the three options suggested below?

Leave housing distribution the same

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

In 'extinction rebellion' not only have we to continue proactive response to the increasing emergency of need for renaissance of localism and all its community-led plans, but we have to realise that preservation of all agricultural land becomes paramount for self-sufficiency's big new demand for as much local food production as possible.

What else do you think about housing distribution in our area?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

See my answers to the above Issues, Issue 1 in particular

Question 2d: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

See my answers to the above issues, especially regarding the big change needed in philosophical thinking of where life in the next couple of crucial decades is taking us : more self-indulgent greed and destruction or more well-planned reduction and recession to make us far less a dominant, and prominently unsustainable, part of life on this planet.

(Maybe, time to worship trees, not just plant lots ?!)

4. New and affordable homes

Question 3a: Should our housing requirement figure match the Government's minimum figure of 702 dwellings per year or should we have a higher figure?

Not Answered

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

This is nothing to do with housing 'requirement' as seen by present criterion, as explained in several comments above. The real issue about securing our very continued existence, against all the growing and looming 'extinction' pressures, via genuine policies of sustainability-led agricultural with its soil and nature 're-wilding' (biodiversity based commons, hedgerows, and green spaces included). In the light of this, all housing has to move in the direction of progressive co-operative and communal structural layout, building upwards, more so to conserve land, where this can reasonably remain in context, AND building in more scattered areas where this helps preserve country living communities. There must be a very large building program for new rented Council houses/apartments with an end to all right-to-buy whilst current shortage continues, acquired by compulsory purchase of land/property at existing use value where necessary.

Question 3b: How should we proactively plan for Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople pitches?

Allocate sites specifically for pitches.

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

Human rights

Question 3c: Should we require that all new housing developments include a percentage of new homes that are designed to be accessible, adaptable and wheelchair accessible?

Require a proportion of dwellings to meet the category standard as set out in Building Regulations Part M.

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

Human rights

Question 3d: How should we provide for custom self-build plots? Should we:

Identify and allocate specific sites for self-build plots in locations related to where people want to live according to our self-build register; and/or, Include a requirement for all housing development sites over a threshold to include a proportion of plots as self-build plots; and/or, Allow self-build plots on Rural Exception sites provided that they are secured as affordable housing for ever

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

Positive planning to meet genuine need which also happens to be good for community development, localism and local skills/trade.

Question 3e: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

5. A prosperous economy

Question 4a: Should we ensure the growth of our local economy through an increase in the proportion of higher value jobs (with limited increase of jobs overall) or through a significant increase in the number of jobs?

Not Answered

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

Important to see and understand my above comments -particularly to Issue 1 - where we all will face existential problems whether we like it or not AND these only can be answered by carefully planned (most well-off to reduce most and least well-off least) big REDUCTION IN WORK AND CONSUMERIST SPENDING etc. to stand any chance of combating climate chaos and sea-level rise. In fact, the current virus pandemic is ironically helping us on our way here without the fairness aspect and a return to old post-war 'waste not want not' centre piece of social standards will be welcomed.

Question 4b: Should we keep all of our existing employment sites and allocations in employment use or should we allow the loss of some to other uses? How should we decide which ones to lose?

Develop flex ble policy allowing for the loss of any existing/ proposed employment site subject to specific criteria

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

Need for the revolutionary new era of self-sufficient cohesive communities.

Question 4c: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

By natural enforcement from the looming and growing struggle for existence against climate change doom, employment will become much more needed in the domestic self-sufficiency and new holistic lifestyle sense and less in the separated national or global industrial direction. In the latest revised UN update on the "Limits to Growth" report and book, nothing less than this big serious rethink and revolution in the world's environmental footprint will do to secure our survival - certainly new high-tech and more subservience to machines speeds up, not prevents, extinction.

6. Infrastructure

Question 5a: On what infrastructure should we prioritise developer contributions? (Please rank in order of priority)

IO - 5a - ranking - Affordable housing:

2

IO - 5a - ranking - Designing for the Climate Change Emergency:

1

IO - 5a - ranking - Accessible, Adaptable and Wheelchair Accessible homes:

4

IO - 5a - ranking - Strategic Infrastructure (schools, transport, community facilities):

3

Question 5b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

To allow any expansion in housing development to meet existential environmental standards then, as said before, communal housing going upwards as well as outwards, will be forced upon us, but all to the good in relation to the new salvationist philosophy of life and living (in harmony with Mother Nature, in reversal of current 'having and doing' individualistic greed). Owner occupation and private ownership of land and business assets will become a thing of the past in the 'New World' order of things.

7. Connecting people

Question 6a: How can we encourage people not to use their car when travelling into our towns for shopping and work? How can we provide more opportunities for using public transport in rural areas?

Please provide comments (200 words max):

Private transport will become as obsolete as private ownership when the survival stakes really arrive, so there must be a very big development and funding of public transport of all kinds, but buses and trains being the obvious. To prevent any further acceleration in climate emergency and its extinction threat any developments which involve more exploitation of natural resources and greenhouse gas emissions must be curtailed unless they can be matched by immediate diminution of the pollution/depletion caused or compensatory sequestration of harmful emissions.

Question 6b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Again lots of things will be a question of enforced change as survival itself becomes a much closer threat and many things used and in operation now will have to cease.

8. The natural and historic environment

Question 7a: Are there any specific measures that you would like to see new developments deliver to improve biodiversity locally?

Please provide comments (200 words max):

All developments of whatever content or nature must contain a significant chunk for nature restoration in terms of wildlife, habitat, and general greenery and 'greening'. Insect, and related bird, biodiversity have suddenly sawed into prominence because of their relationship to our food sustainability. Much must be done to once again fight to reverse degradation and fight for our survival.

Question 7b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

See above

9. Thriving coastal and rural communities

Question 8a: How should we manage development in rural areas? Should we:

Have settlement boundaries across the District; or

Question 8b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Settlement boundaries should not be looked upon as any long-term fait-accompli, since there must be left a fairly high degree of development manoeuvre because of the new survival need to 'undevelop' being needed as much as any for development - in fact, by progressive community cohesion and greater communal living the reconstruction of old fashioned societies/co-operatives will be the main localism driver.

10. Wellbeing of our residents

Question 9a: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

The main contributor to health and well-being will be feelings of success in the fight for human survival in a shape and form completely transformed via fundamental change in philosophy of life and its new relationship to Mother Nature and living in harmony with 'it' and each other, rather than in permanent exploitative materialistic greed. NEED will replace greed and love and joy will see off depression and aggression !

11. Policies for our places: Taunton

Question 10a: How do you think we could introduce more housing into Taunton Town centre?

Encouraging car-free developments (which could include allocating specific sites for car-free developments).

Please provide reasons for your answers (200 words max):

All three are relevant in different ways but still to plan the centre better we must have the whole central area pedestrianised (car free but including cycling access) and we must use powers of compulsory purchase at existing land/property values to provide opening up of many big areas of unused ground and upper floor (especially) retailing premises for conversion to in-town housing, preferably for local council renting at affordable prices.

Set-up community co-operative groups/CLTs to help this along.

Question 10b: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Urban sprawl must end in favour of community-led 'village-type', self-sufficiency development to answer extinction threat

12. Policies for our places: Wellington

Question 11a: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):

13. Policies for our places: the Coastal Strip

Question 12a: Do you have any comments on these policy approaches?

Please provide comments (250 words max):