

Response ID ANON-8CC9-KDSW-G

Submitted to **Local Plan Issues and Options**

Submitted on **2020-03-13 21:55:42**

Your details

What is your name?

Forename:

Rachel

Surname:

Hoyle

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:

Please choose one from the drop-down list:

What is your (personal/organisational) address?

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██
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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):

Build on brown space, renovate buildings in and around Taunton.

Please don't rob the county of precious green land.... think of the planet, think of the environment, leave a positive legacy, don't let greed cloud your judgement.

Think of where the rain water will go if there's just concrete for it to splash on.

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):

New homes can be made from renovating existing buildings that are laying empty and a wasted resource. I am suspicious of the actual need for all these new homes. Speaking to residents in other new homes they are poorly made, waiver thin walls and not of a good standard. Affordable shouldn't mean shoddy! Also why are we building on flood plains and green spaces????!!!! Taunton needs rejuvenation not sprawling sole less estates on green land...

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):

I agree that improvements should start in Taunton itself but beyond the town limits I think we need to protect green space not savage it. Greenfield is so important and essential to our future. Please leave it alone.

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)?

No - Watchet and Williton should be seen as separate 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?

Increase housing in Taunton; and reduce in Minor Rural Settlements

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

Concentrate on areas already covered in concrete.... consider all options here... be creative... be brave and make good choices. I don't know how you can talk about the environment and then even consider allowing building to happen on greenfield sites.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

No development east of M5 boundary, it's so sad that all the land was sold to a housing developer. Wimpy who bought all the crown land will no doubt give back handers, and some unscrupulous people will get richer and fatter..... Taunton council be brave, stand up for your green spaces. Think flooding, think about the air you breath, think about wildlife, think about your children and grand children, think about the consequences of allowing the country side to be bulldozed.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Definitely support and use already developed land. Make good!

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):

I'm not answering because I'm not convinced we need that many new homes. It's lazy to just plonk a new estate on a greenfield site.... look at where it's already concreted!

These new estates are just getting people out of Taunton centre. Where are all these people going to work? Will Taunton consider this?

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):

I think if people want to live communally like that then that's cool, but not sure integrating would work because others can be super judgemental and sadly won't live in harmony. Again look at existing brown sites.

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):

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

Include a positive encouragement policy, including for community-led projects, and leave the housing market to deliver plots as and when demand arises; and/or, 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

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

Tricky, normally people wanting to self build prob won't want their individual house amongst others all the same, so a site where they are all self build could work. I Associate self build with individual plots so maybe leaving it to the housing market is better. Although I did see a fab tv programme where people could design

their own homes on a plot within an estate.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Just avoid building on greenfield sites

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?

Align with the Heart of the South West growth ambitions (deliver a shift towards a significant increase in overall job numbers including higher value jobs)

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

Taunton has lost its heart, since the market left (who on earth allowed that to happen) its not the town it was even 10 years ago. It's been diluted and lost its higher end appeal. It looks tired and poor, so sad.

I think attracting new business is essential, the high street is on its knees, too many homeless, it's quite scruffy and needs an injection of investment. It's lost its sole and reason of being the county town.

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

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

I think flexibility is key. Sensible options for all brown sites..... just try try try to keep off the greenfield sites!

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

All points need considering and flexibility is key. Make Taunton a place to visit that's good for all ages etc!

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:

4

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

1

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):

I think you seriously need to consider where the water goes! A lot more flooding.... ummmm well is that because our greenfield sites are being built on.... of course it is! If climate change means more rain why on earth are we considering covering our earth with more concrete?! Makes no sense to me.

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):

Have no parking in the town centre so we have to use park and ride or walk?!!! That would get the lazy lot out and about!

But hey aren't you about to rip up the park and ride near Henlade?

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Yep do what you can to get people active and stay connected.

Annoying though that new estates will have good connectivity whilst original nearby dwellers still won't? These designer estates are just rather vacuous!

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):

Leave massive massive green spaces, plant woodland, plant meadows, have community projects for recycling and making things out of supposed junk. Don't build on green land, have use of it by communities.

Have a vision that makes nature succeed.

Think about how activities that green space can be used for.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Do everything in your power to be green, bio-diverse and protect your county!

9. Thriving coastal and rural communities

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

Have a policy which is a hybrid of (i) and (ii) where there are settlement boundaries only in areas of greater development pressure i.e. parts of the District that are more accessible - closer to the M5, Taunton and Wellington areas.

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

We are so used to having boundaries that make us feel part of a certain village or town so to smudge us all in together could mean that certain community pro's would be lost. If you blur the lines too much then what makes an area special would drift away. I think a community within a community is essential.... we need to be encouraging it more.. not diluting it!

10. Wellbeing of our residents

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

Community spirit and community support are key here.

11. Policies for our places: Taunton

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

Positively encouraging taller buildings (subject to impact upon the skyline); or

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

I actually think a mix of all 3, it's frustrating when you can only pick one!

The town centre could have a sympathetic but radical overhaul to encourage people to live in the town, which in turn means they use the town for work, volunteering, community led projects, eating, shopping and living!

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

L ke this! Yep get Taunton town centre back from the brink of being a low income ghost town.

Be ambitious and creative

12. Policies for our places: Wellington

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

Please provide comments (250 words max):

All sounds appropriate

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):

Keep our coast busy and thriving as poss.