

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Strategy](#)
Subject: Mike McDonald
Date: 30 January 2020 19:20:49

Please find attached some comments following today's visit to the roadshow in Williton. I and many of our neighbours are very concerned that the decision on housing developments will go ahead without a detailed plan as to how the substantial population increases will be supported by appropriate infrastructure and service provisions.

Please let me know if you would like any of the comments expanded.

Mike McDonald

[REDACTED]

THE SOMERSET WEST AND TAUNTON LOCAL PLAN 2040
COMMENTS ON THE WATCHET AND WILLITON PROPOSALS

1) FURTHER DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA WOULD GO AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS.

There are few jobs in the area, and transport links to the major centres of Bridgwater and Taunton, and then on to the national road and rail networks are poor. Bus services are very limited, and additional travel by car will increase the environmental impacts. The considerable peak congestion, particularly on the approach to Taunton, will become worse with associated local and wider effects.

Developments in this area, housing or otherwise, would be on agricultural land needed to reduce the environmental costs of imports.

2) INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES WILL NOT COPE WITH A SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASE

There is no clarity as to how the two villages of Watchet and Williton may work as vibrant communities following the very substantial population increases proposed. Current problems, which will become worse exponentially, relate to the roads through the villages, education and medical services. Any plan to increase housing should only be agreed in the context of a more comprehensive plan. Only then can the contributions from developers be focussed in a coordinated way.

The present approach of allowing individual developments to proceed without a clear vision for the future is flawed. Whilst I appreciate the pressure on the Council to reach government targets for new housing, and the desire of landowners to maximise the profits from their land, there is a responsibility to the community to make sound decisions for the long term. This does not seem to be happening at present.

3) THE FEEDBACK PROCESS IS FLAWED

The questionnaire is so obviously biased that no more needs to be said. (I have a background which includes questionnaire design, and would be pleased to provide a more detailed response)

Promotion of the roadshows to inform the public and obtain feedback was poor.

4) THE PRESENT ACTION TO ACCEPT FURTHER DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE HALTED UNTIL A COMPLETE AND COHERENT PLAN FOR THE FUTURE OF THE VILLAGES CAN BE PUT FORWARD.

Mike McDonald, January, 2020