

Response to Local Plan Review-consultation period ending 23rd December 2022

From: Geraint Lang, [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Introduction

I'm fully cognisant of the need to both increase and renew the local housing stock, and see the inevitable expansion of both domestic and business development in South Staffordshire.

However I have read the flyer (entitled Local Plan Review, published by Wombourne Parish Council) and the 6 associated QR codes. I am also aware that the deadline for public consultation is the 23rd of December. I agree with the Wombourne Parish Council that in meeting the Government's need to increase the housing stock, the South Staffordshire Council and the councils representing Birmingham and the Black Country have produced a comprehensive plan to mitigate the housing shortage in our part of the West Midlands.

I have made the following points:

1. Brownfield Sites

The plan as published by the South Staffordshire Council does not take into account the need to fully explore the potential brownfield sites that lie unused in and around Birmingham and the Black Country.

2. Infrastructure

The existing infrastructure in and around Wombourne doesn't adequately support the existing population, and has worsened since the developments off Beggars Bush Lane and adjacent to Wombourne Park, in the south east of Wombourne. Since those recent developments the volume of traffic has increased in the village.

3. Potholes & pavements

Staffordshire County Council Highways cannot currently cope with the poor condition of the road surfaces around Wombourne, as evidenced by the numerous potholes now appearing in the village, exacerbated by the increase in traffic caused by the recent housing developments. If further building is planned as proposed, then the condition of our roads will only deteriorate further and quicker.

The condition of the pavements along Giggetty Lane, Planks Lane and Walk Lane have remained untouched for the last twenty years, and are continuing to deteriorate.

4. **Healthcare, Education, Policing**

Having lived in the village of Wombourne since 1985, residents have bemoaned the lack of a hospital in South Staffordshire. This has made us reliant upon hospitals in Wolverhampton and Dudley. The shortage of GPs, increased appointment waiting times and much publicised problems with the NHS nationwide only add to the problem.

There are 5 Primary schools in Wombourne, and face growing numbers. Planned housing developments in Wombourne will only add to that pressure. Is a further school to be built? If not, what provision will be made for those children?

Water leaks are not uncommon. Are there plans to address this problem?

Daily access to the Internet is interrupted. Is this going to be looked at?

Also since 1985, I have seen our access to police significantly reduced, and their current efforts reduced to quick -fix strategies that don't include proactive policing, thus reported crime doesn't decrease. It doesn't help either when some elected representatives refuse to listen to residents' concerns about speeding, particularly in older areas of the village without pavements.

Conclusion

Without significant investment to address the aforementioned concerns which impact upon Wombourne as it is now, plans to increase the number of residencies will destroy the village of Wombourne.

From: William Geraint Stewart Lang
23rd December 2022