

Comments on South Staffordshire local plan review Regulation 19 response .

Rev Robert Readshaw [REDACTED]

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above.

Whilst my comments are about the plan, I am particularly referencing the Langley Road site no. 582 which is immediately adjacent to where I live and I would like to offer the following comments.

Lack of communication about the site

As a resident of Wolverhampton I was able to make comments to the consultation plan only because I heard about it through Social media. Whilst receiving an invitation to comment on this version because I have commented before, I am not aware of any attempt by South Staffs Council to make the residents along the part of Bhylls Lane, and Bellencroft Road adjacent to the sit, aware of the implications of the Langley Road site to which they are adjacent.

No infrastructure plan afor the sites requested by Wolverhampton City Council

I understand that Wolverhampton City Council have asked for an Infrastructure Master plan with regards to this site, which has not been completed. The Langley Road site 582 because of the lack of public transport (other than a bus service some distance away ) will be a largely car based site, which will impact on already busy roads especially but not only at peak times, and also seems to be against South Staffs Council declaration of a climate emergency in 2019. There is also no evidence in the plan for an Air Quality Study in relation to the Langley Road site, It seems that there are a number of reasons why this site on green belt land should not be judged as a site for building houses on.

Education

Children living on the Langley Road site will be given priority to , a south Staffs school The Bhylls Acre School, there seems to be no consideration within the plan for the Wolverhampton children who will need a school place. Also no indication as to the number of school places for children that are available in the area.

The plan is based on figures from the Office of National statistics in 2014. more recent figures show declining birth rates and population decline. No attempt has been made to reflect this changing situation in the Publication Plan.

The plan was prepared in conjunction with the Black Country plan, including councils in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell. As that plan collapsed in October 2022, the need to co-operate with other authorities has changed as each authority will be making their own local plan., It seems that this means the South Staffordshire local plan should be reviewed or at least paused in line with Government advice which gives extra time for this. South Staffs seem to insist that there is no way to pause the plan, as this might lead to speculative building , of which in fact the planning authority in the council will have control by agreeing or not. There have been 20 local councils who have done that whilst waiting for Parliament to complete planning regulation changes.

Robert REadshaw