

Good morning

Please would you kindly accept this as my formal comment for the Local Plan 2040 for Test Valley. Thank you

I have lived in Romsey for 24 years and in that time we have witnessed the massive loss of trees, green corridors, wildlife havens and nesting spaces, and the loss of open green spaces that used to circle our small town. In the town itself many blocks of flats – all of them much too tall for the character of the town -have sprung up everywhere. Almost none of these are suitable for first time buyers. I also know that far more houses have been built in Romsey than were required under previous Local Plans. So that my wish as a resident is that we have no more new building for the next decade, but rather seek preserve every area of tree and scrub we currently have, as these are vital for preventing over-heating and flooding due to climate change.

Instead: What is needed is small, (studio and single bedroom) flats for young working professionals, who can rent them from the Council. I don't mean social housing as this is catered for already. I mean affordable council-owned homes of a good quality **on Brown sites in the town**, within walking distance of our excellent rail services, so that young people in work can have a home of their own without being exploited by private renters (as now) or stuck with their parents until they are 30 (the current estimation of when they can afford to leave). This will also ensure they remain in the town. At present the large and expensive houses being built all around the town are not catering for them.

No Renewable Energy

In addition, none of the housing that has been built has solar panels? This is madness. It needs to be the prime consideration of everyone given planning permission to make housing climate-change responsible. Especially now that gas and oil supplies will be dwindling to nothing. We have the chance to be self-sufficient in renewable energy. Let Romsey show the way. Even the water is going to waste.

Community Fund

In addition, I understand that for every house built the District council receives a payment intended for use by the community. And that at present there is over a Million pounds unspent in this fund. I consider this to be verging on illegal. Not only does it seem to be a bribe to build houses we don't have to build, but the money is not being spent. I would like to see a consultation of how Romsey would like its community fund spent. I intend to raise this with my MP if something of this nature does not soon occur.

Cycle Way Danger

For example. We need a sign to warn drivers of the new cycle route at Lee Lane entrance. There will be an accident soon if no warning is given of this, as cars have 4 seconds if they are driving at the speed limit (most are faster) before seeing anyone crossing from the allotment side to Lee lane. Children will be using this track (presumably the reason for it is to encourage cycling). In addition, we need cycle ways that actually link up. Not token gestures...such as to Timsbury, to get people out of their cars

Protecting Green Spaces and Wildlife Habitats

Most of all, we need to protect our green spaces. Even what may appear to you as a 'scrubby woodland' with a few trees, such as the one just destroyed by the atrocious Donwell housing development on Sandy lane, represents a vital wildlife corridor for birds –such as the woodpeckers and ravens that lived there. And in addition it is now the nesting season, so there should be no more deforestation or disturbing of birds until the end of September. The area behind our house which

used to be the infant school was once home to many birds species which no longer frequent our gardens. Yet is was largely an 'empty green space'. Now all of the wildlife it supported has been lost forever in housing with artificial landscaping.

Test Valley is behaving as if we don't need wildlife or green spaces. It is time to come up to date. We have less than a decade to address climate change and that means no more tree loss and plenty of cooling and flood-planes left alone from development.

Yours sincerely

Dr Jennifer Poole

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