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Subject: Response to Draft Local Plan 2040
Date: 02 April 2024 11:53:19

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Personal response from Carol Bartholomew, retired Occupational Therapist. Email:
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Response to Draft Local Plan 2040

Elderly and people with a disability: The Local Plan states Test Valley has above average numbers of elderly population and national figures show a high number of younger people with a disability.

The Local Plan doesn't state how people not managing steps and stairs will be catered for. Flats can be a good option if there are lifts. All flats need lifts as a person can become disabled overnight and can do without a long stay in hospital waiting to be rehoused. Flats also need to be large enough to accommodate an electric mobility scooter to enable charging or have a secure area where they can be kept and charged. Likewise, there needs to be secure storage for bikes so that the cycle paths can be used. Plus, charging points for electric vehicles.

There needs to be an adequate number of dropped kerbs to allow people in a wheelchair to cross the road.

All houses and bungalows need an entrance without steps with wide enough space to allow access to the rooms using a wheelchair. A downstairs toilet is a necessity.

As a retired Occupational Therapist working in the community and now working as a support worker visiting people at home, I feel there needs to be 1hr parking for those visiting elderly and sick people. Carers and District Nurses maybe visiting eight people in a day and haven't got spare time to look for a parking space and walk a long distance from the car. This would be an advantage for delivery drivers too. Many of the estates recently built are congested with parked cars.

Parking In general on new estates

I would also like to claim that garages can no longer be counted as a parking space. No one I know personally, uses their garage to park their car.

A lot of skilled electricians, plumbers, plasters etc are self-employed and work from home and need a van for work. This is essential work and needs to be encouraged. Other job's entail bringing a work van home to save a journey to base at the beginning of the day. I would say new estates need to have spaces large enough and high enough for work vans but using a system of allocated spaces.

Parking on the narrow bendy roads in new estates makes it difficult for buses and fire engines. Roads on estates need to be wider than those built in the early 2000's.