

Romsey Local Plan 2020 – 2040

Comments relating to Climate change in the documentation.

The local plan states very clearly that TVBC will take positive action to ameliorate the effects of climate change through minimising the impact of new development through location, layout, and design and by using nature-based solutions.

It quotes the NPPF several times regarding the concept and definition of sustainable development and the need to cut C emissions and reduce vulnerability to weather and flooding.

Key needs that are addressed in the document include increased and more adaptable public transport especially to the villages and North-South in the borough, accessible footpaths and cycle ways that are safe and accessible to use; connection between the villages; the importance and role of SINCS, LNR, NNR and SSSIs in managing and mitigation against CC which of course includes the importance of trees and hedging in urban and suburban areas as well as the rural environment. The use of vegetation to maintain soil structure and control leaching and run-off from roads and farmland. The importance of planning controls on all new housing, public buildings, and industrial developments to ensure that roof PV panels are encouraged as well as considering the areas of the borough which can be used to generate wind energy.

My comments: the wording of the document is very detailed and makes positive proposals as to what needs to be done in a theoretical sense to reduce the impact of CC. However, there is great use of passive terminology which compromises the probable effectiveness of any planning controls and provides a get-out for developers. The term “mitigation” is used but this tends to be a way of transferring the problems of pollution or emissions to another locality and to my mind is a negation of responsibility. The local plan must have the power to set controls in place before any development proceeds.

The NPPF does not appear to have the power to enforce the development of urban brownfield sites over expansion into the countryside [I am thinking of the Romsey Brewery Site which has been an eyesore in the town for decades]. This is an ongoing problem that successive ministers and MPs have failed to address.

All areas in the Local Plan relating to Biodiversity are of utmost importance in the reduction of the impacts of CC. The promotion of SINCS and LNRs and the use or wilding areas around towns and villages has been shown to have a positive effect on species diversity and the health of our countryside; trees and shrubs cool the surrounding air and ground, and roots hold the soil in place and through transpiration absorb water from the ground thus reducing run-off.

I do understand that TVBC Planning can only work within the National Guidelines, it is just such a pity that these controls are so ineffective in preventing the outward spread of Romsey along Cupernham Lane and Jermyns Lane.

Rosalind Fresson

Trade Winds

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