


26th February 2024

Planning Policy & Economic Development
TVBC, Beech Hurst
Weyhill Road
Andover
SP10 3AJ

TVBC Draft: Local Plan 2040
Ganger Farm site

Dear Sir/Madam,

As invited, I am writing concerning the above plan, especially the Ganger Farm site in Romsey.

I am fully supportive of new housing developments – they are desperately needed. My main concern is the lack of detailed planning to mitigate climate-change requirements. Let me explain...

I attended the recent public consultation at Abbotswood and was shown a weighty folder of supportive documentation. I asked whether there was any reference in it to a requirement for developers to fit solar panels (for hot water & electricity) onto every roof? No – the representatives said that it wasn't mentioned even once. Two TVBC representatives said this was because "technology evolves". Of course it does, but that's no reason not to insist on their installation. Clearly this is not a robust argument: its logical conclusion would mean that we would still be using horses, carts and steam engines. I don't think that TVBC should be using "technology evolves" as a reason not to consider it.

When I pursued this, I was then told that central Government does not allow local authorities to stipulate such requirements: in other words...TVBC would not have the power to insist that developers fit panels onto each roof. Is this

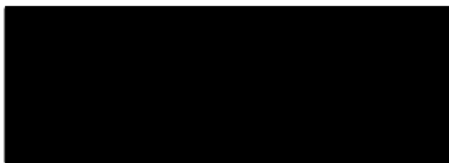
the case? If it is, then I would suggest that TVBC needs to challenge this restriction: if it isn't the case, then I would suggest that TVBC needs to lead by example and draw attention to its green credentials by granting planning permission only if the developers agree beforehand to this condition.

About 15 years ago, before Abbotswood was built, I wrote to TVBC asking that a similar condition (to insert a non-negotiable clause into the developers' contract that roofs are fitted with panels for hot water and electricity). As you will be aware, nothing of the sort happened and so I am beginning to question TVBC's true determination to tackle some basic climate related issues.

When the recent Draft Plan was first made public last year, I attended a similar exhibition (at the new Ganger Farm Sports Pavilion) and was given lots of information by Mr James Cross, Head of Barretts Planning. On 4th March 2023 I wrote to the Barretts CEO with six specific concerns, but didn't even receive any acknowledgement despite the letter saying 'please would you acknowledge its receipt by email'. If this is typical of their ethos...I wonder if Barretts are the wisest choice?

I say again, I am not against the Ganger Farm (or other) development, but I do think that we need to be stronger in our insistence on solar roof panels. I don't know if I am expecting an individual reply to this letter but perhaps, *there could at least be a reply if you could show me the relevant legal restrictions* that I was told prevent us from insisting on solar panels being installed as a pre-condition for development approval.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Mr John Parker.

Mr John Parker