



Planning Policy & Economic Development
Test Valley Borough Council
Beech Hurst Weyhill Road
Andover SP10 3AJ

22 March 2024

To whom it may concern

TEST VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL DRAFT LOCAL PLAN 2040

I attended and viewed the various documents on display in relation to the above on Tuesday 12th March at The Guild Hall Andover and spoke to your officers present who were most helpful.

I was particularly concerned about two major housing proposals submitted by the Drew Smith Organisation on sites located in Grateley, one off Streetway Road and the other off Station Close. You will understand that Grateley and Palestine are cheek-by-jowl albeit Palestine is actually in the Parish of Over Wallop.

These proposals were first made known to me and other residents when printed material, containing inaccurate information and mistakes, was circulated and briefings were held by Drew Smith during 2021/22.

At the time of these briefings there was considerable opposition from the local community based on many concerns not least that the sites involved were green field sites, now referred to I understand as 'countryside sites'. The proposals were for the building of a total of some 170 properties, literally two over-whelming housing estates!

Although matters do not appear to have moved forward by Drew Smith since that time, it is known that there have been recent visits to the sites and information given that the proposals are still 'live'. They have also, I am told, been subject to mention at local Parish Council meetings.

Having now viewed the Draft Plan and learning that the calculated housing need across the Borough will be met, I am at a loss to understand how, if these proposals were allowed to go ahead, justification could be shown for them given that the housing need applied to Grateley for the period to 2040 is, it is said, only 10. This 'need' can presumably be met from other more suitable sites in Grateley rather than concreting over yet more ancient, historic and magnificence Hampshire countryside inflicting terrible effects on the environment, on traffic flow and pollution as well as the varied wildlife and the local community.

For these and several other reasons I ask that you note my comments, as and where appropriate, and should the aforementioned proposals, or any others involving the areas of land in question, come before the planning committee in the future, notice is taken of them along with the many others that would be I know be forthcoming.

Yours faithfully

James G Wortley