



13 December 2020

Spatial Planning,
Solihull Council,
Council House,
Manor Square,
Solihull B92 3QB

Dear Sir/Madam,

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION RESPONSE

I appreciate the need for new homes to be built in the region like most people and understand the pressure the Council are faced with having to identify parcels of land for development. I thoroughly support the plans to build a new village close to the NEC/HS2 Interchange (Arden Cross Development) referred to as UK1 which would give residents access to some of the best transport links in the country, making it a very desirable place to live for working professionals and their families. It has the enormous potential of being a 'showcase' village' for the UK with the architects having a blank canvas to work on and also being able to design something a little different and creative incorporating it's own shopping centre, schools, health facilities, sport and leisure facilities, etc. It could become a beautiful and very convenient village of choice to live for many people and has the added advantage that it can be developed even further with more new homes built as the need arises.

The new village close to the NEC/HS2 Interchange (Arden Cross Development) referred to as UK1 would be much better suited for building large volumes of houses than in the Meriden Gap where I would like to see building on green belt land restricted as much as possible. This will also reduce the pressures on the Health Centre in Balsall Common which will become overwhelmed and unable to cope if the number of residents in the village increases substantially.

After having read the various articles in the Winter 2020 edition of 'The Bugle' magazine I wanted to give my wholehearted support to Jeanette McGarry's suggestion that the land referred to as BC3 (Windmill Lane/Kenilworth Lane) should be protected from housing and used to create a country park to complement Berkswell's Grade II listed windmill that Jeanette has recently restored to its former glory with the help of English Heritage.

If the land referred to as BC3 (Windmill Lane/Kenilworth Lane) is not protected now from the development of houses it will be a lost opportunity to create something unique. To have a historic windmill with an adjacent country park is a 'golden one-off opportunity for the region and I think it would be very well used and supported. Berkswell is a beautiful village which features in many guide books such as the 'AA Book of British Villages' in which the 1826 windmill is mentioned. Creating a country park adjacent to the windmill would be a lovely enhancement for tourists and locals alike to enjoy and I am very excited at the prospect of looking around the windmill myself once it re-opens to the public.

We have all seen the evidence of what the 2020 lockdown has done to people's mental health and how beneficial it is to have access to green spaces and the countryside so I would urge you to reconsider the plans for this particular area of land. It is far too precious to turn over to housing when other more appropriate areas can be used. In my opinion the NEC/HS2 Interchange (Arden Cross Development) referred to as UK1 is the perfect area for development now and in the future as there is a need to expand further.

Yours faithfully,

Louise Rhind-Tutt

c.c. Alison Wilson – Green Party