

Spatial Planning,
Solihull Council,
Council House,
Manor Square,
Solihull, B91 3QB

Peter Hamlon



November 2020

Dear Sirs

"Draft Local Plan Consultation Response"

I write to express my concerns as follows with regard to the Council's proposed Draft Local Plan:-

1. Shirley is taking the majority (over 39%) of the proposed 15,000 new houses in the Borough which seems a disproportionate amount for one area and more than our fair share.
2. Tens of thousands of acres of Green Belt surrounding Shirley could be lost and the space between Shirley, and the separate areas of Cheswick Green and Dickens Heath, could be eroded which will be detrimental to the environment and peoples mental and physical health.

These proposals, in greenbelt areas, with narrow country roads, will prove inadequate for the increase in traffic which will be generated. Existing roads may need to be widened and street lighting improved. All of which will result in increased air and light pollution.

3. Doctors surgeries and schools are already under tremendous pressure due to recent development. What proposals are there for providing additional services for the huge proposed housing increase in the Shirley area? In areas of older or ageing populations it is harder to provide surgeries, we understand, due to the funding formula.
4. Shirley seems to be particularly targeted for retirement properties which means more demand for doctors and care services.
5. I feel that more emphasis should be given to the kind of homes most needed, that is Social housing and affordable housing for young people, sited in locations that promote sustainable travel.

Once again the Council are taking the easy way out at Shirley's expense and an eye on the bottom line. There are other fairer options such as those raised by the Green Party and others but rejected the Conservative Council. Shirley is being both insulted and assaulted by these proposals.

I would ask the Council not rush the approval of these plans to the Secretary of State but think again, preserve the Green Belt, consider the public services provision and make it possible for our young to build a future in our area.

Yours sincerely

