

c/o Cath Thorne, Programme Officer,  
South Gloucestershire Council,  
PO Box 2081, South Gloucestershire  
BS35 9BP

**South Gloucestershire Core Strategy –Additional Housing Sites.**

Dear Paul Crysell

In the context of the conclusions you came to in your draft modifications of Sept 2012:

-Depending upon your decision for Morton Way, this may well in due course reveal the flaws in your decision to uncritically accept SGCs choice for Thornbury of Park Farm without sufficient critical scrutiny or significant challenge.

-As the Independent Planning Inspector you appear to be in the process of failing to understand or identify the challengeable decision in SGC housing plans for Thornbury. Either this or you have a natural affinity to side with or just go along with local councils' preferred plans, or you have fallen for the council's subterfuge and partiality, served in a convenient wrapper.

-You are at risk of being recognised in future as having failed in your duty to ensure valid supportable decisions were made in selecting sites for housing in Thornbury.

-This could happen when the future stakeholders (council and residents) are grappling with the difficulties inflicted by an inadequately thorough independent planning inspection of the present SGC choices proposed, when in fact better sites were available.

-It will be seen as illogical and an unwise decision to put none or few houses on the better sites and all or most of the houses on the worst site. Traffic and flooding (significant problems for the current choice) are highly topical subjects for local communities and the media today let alone tomorrow; why be reviled for perpetuating the mistakes of the past when the evidence has been presented to you?

-I would urge you to examine carefully the alternative submissions to the SGC choices for Thornbury which challenge the way in which SGC claim to support their decisions; particularly look at the prejudice and disparity in the sustainability survey. How, with no interim developments can the best and the worst sites switch places between 2006 and 2010?

-Surely it would be best to bottom this out now with a truly independent view and examination of such detail rather than it wind up ignominiously (for all) in the courts and press, before the ink is even dry.

Yours sincerely

Michael Handford