

**Subject:** Thornbury Town Council Statement for 7.3.13

Dear Kath,

**Thornbury Town Council's Response to the Inspector's Decision to Re-open the Eip on 7 March 2013 and call for additional comments.**

Thornbury Town Council welcomes the Inspector's decision to re-open the EiP to reconsider all sites and not just the single site identified by South Gloucestershire to meet any shortfall in the 5 year land supply figures.

The Town Council is currently unable to provide the Inspector with comments on the relative merits of all the different sites across South Gloucestershire to meet any shortfall in the 5 year housing land supply figures because South Gloucestershire has failed to produce the comparative analysis that the Inspector has asked them to publish. The Town Council will submit their comments as and when this analysis becomes available.

The second of only two issues on which the Inspector has asked for comments relates to whether or not certain sites put forward by South Gloucestershire towards the 5 year land supply figures are valid. Again no information has been put in the public domain to enable the Town Council to take a considered view on this matter. Again the Town Council will submit their comments as and when information becomes available.

The Town Council remains concerned that the public have not been consulted on the proposal to include the Morton Way site as part of the Core Strategy, and that the Inspector by restricting the re-opened EiP to just two items would seem to be denying them any opportunity to do so.

To avoid repetition of other factors already raised with the Inspector the Town Council would refer you to the attached documents being the Town Council's responses to (a) the Inspector's main modifications to the Core Strategy and (b) South Gloucestershire's response to the Inspector's main modifications. These include information and views pertinent to this debate.

Yours sincerely,  
Judith Payne  
Town Clerk  
Thornbury Town Council

South Gloucestershire response to the Inspectors 'Main Modification to the Core Strategy' were dated 16<sup>th</sup> November 2012 but not made public until 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012, after the closing date for submissions had passed. Thornbury Town Council is concerned that this document contains proposals in relation to Thornbury that were not part, at any stage, of their Core Strategy proposals. In particular Thornbury Town Council:

- (a) rejects South Gloucestershire's proposal that, if the Inspector insists on 9,345 dwellings during the first 5 years of the plan, that the shortfall of 260 dwellings should be provided east of Morton Way between Crossways Lane and Gloucester Road,
- (b) notes that this proposal is against the publicly declared policy of South Gloucestershire Council and points out that there has been no opportunity for anyone to comment on this change in policy or to express their views to the Inspector,
- (c) repeats its request to the inspector not to demand more than the 9,087 dwellings in the first 5 years of the plan identified by South Gloucestershire Council, and to its declared policy against development to the east of Morton Way,
- (d) urgently request the Inspector, that if he is determined to go for the 9,345 dwellings, to re-open the EiP and reconsiders ALL the sites previously rejected through the core strategy process to find the final 260 dwellings and not just the single site identified by South Gloucestershire Council, and
- (e) rejects totally the assertion in the second paragraph of page 16 that 'community representatives/civic leaders considered that the town would benefit from some sensitively planned and appropriate residential development, the scale of which should be in the range of between 500 – 1000 houses'. The Town Council has only ever agreed to 'up to 500 houses'.

Further the Town Council insists that the false statement associated with the Town Council on page 38 of Appendix 4 of South Gloucestershire's core strategy document 'Engagement undertaken between July 2008 and March 2012' in relation to house numbers is immediately deleted and the Inspector informed of this error and its correction.

5/12/12