

Chris Carpenter – Response received 30 April

To the Planning Office

Ref: Letter to me below dated 24th April 2013 (name not given!!)

I have read with great interest your ref' letter (below) regarding the revocation of the South West Regional Strategy. As a member of the Hambrook Lane Action Group (HLAG), can you please inform me what the impact will be on the East of Harry Stoke (EoHS) development?

In my view, two key messages are given in the documents issued by central government...1. SGC can now set their own housing requirements in accordance with local need rather than that set by government and 2. The number of houses required between 2013 and 2021 was overestimated by previous governments resulting in a reduction of 24,900 houses per year up to 2021. I assume that these figures are national, but must have a significant impact on the housing requirement in the S Glos area. We have been told on several occasions that SGC are following government guidelines. Now SGC can set their own guidelines and housing requirement more in line with what is actually needed in the area they control...the idea that building houses for 56,000+ people and then wondering where the jobs are coming from, and how the roads are going to cope, seems the wrong way to go about planning. Are you absolutely certain that your planning strategy is really meeting the needs of S Glos or is it, at a time when government is reducing subsidies to local authorities, "the more houses we build, the more rates we collect"? (cynical I know but, **why the need for so many houses?**)

As the EoHS development is taking a large chunk of Green Belt can we now see SGC re-visiting their Core Strategy to help preserve this area of land! At the very least, I would expect SGC planning committee to be considering a reduction in the proposed 28,000 houses proposed.

It should be noted that some home owners, whose back gardens are adjacent to EoHS proposed development area, have been offered very large SUMS of money for their gardens by developing companies! Does this mean that the developers have been given assurance that the EoHS plan is now going ahead?

I look forward to your response...

Regards

Chris Carpenter
Hambrook Lane Action Group