

Dear Sir

Now that the Government has withdrawn its top-down regional strategy for the South West and has reduced the number of houses required in this area, I would like to ask why is there still a need for South Glos Council to build 28,000 houses?

'Hambrook Lane Action Group', of which I am a member, has been told repeatedly by South Glos Council that the reason for the stated requirement of 28000+ houses in this area is because of a 'top-down' dictate from Central Government. As this is clearly no longer the case, we would like to see the continued need for this number of houses to be reviewed and evidenced. Much of the local community in Hambrook Lane is against the number of houses proposed for East of Harry Stoke New Neighbourhood for a list of reasons already lodged with Council members, and as a relevant 'local community' we request that our views are taken into account in light of the abolition of the SW Region Planning Strategy and current Government advice that local Councils 'with the involvement of local communities' should now decide on the housing needs in each area.

It has also become clear that residents of Hambrook Lane are being offered large sums of money to add their gardens/paddocks to the East of Harry Stoke New Neighbourhood. This will further increase the number of houses beyond the 3200 already proposed (Harry Stoke phase 1 plus EOHS) adding to the already significant issues of traffic congestion and other problems already highlighted in this area. Hambrook Lane has been a very stable community, with many residents living here for many years. Already people are confirming their intention to leave, and people are saying they will sell their gardens, sell up and move. This is very damaging to a local community and ethically questionable in light of the revoking of the SW top-down housing dictate.

Yours faithfully

Dr Nicola Hembry
(Member of Hambrook lane Action Group)