

16 JUL 2021

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Post Room  
Charnwood

**Charnwood Local  
Plan 2021-2037**  
Publication Stage  
Representation Form

Ref:

(For  
official  
use only)

Please return to Charnwood Borough Council by 5PM on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021  
by:

- Email: [localplans@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:localplans@charnwood.gov.uk)
- Post: Local Plans, Charnwood Borough Council Southfield Road,  
Loughborough, LE11 2TX

The Privacy Statement can be found at: [www.charnwood.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/privacy)

This form has two parts –

Part A – Personal Details: need only be completed once.

Part B – Your representation(s). Please fill in a separate sheet for each  
representation you wish to make.

## Part A

### 1. Personal Details\*

*\*If an agent is appointed, please complete only the Title, Name and Organisation (if applicable)  
boxes below but complete the full contact details of the agent in 2.*

### 2. Agent's Details (if applicable)

Title	Mr	
First Name	Lionel David	
Last Name	Stevenson	
Job Title (where relevant)	Retired	
Organisation (where relevant)		
Address Line 1		
Line 2		
Line 3		
Line 4		
Post Code		
Telephone Number		
E-mail Address (where relevant)		

## Part B – Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Name or Organisation:

3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph  Policy ☒ Policies Map

4. Do you consider the Local Plan is (please tick as appropriate):

4.(1) Legally compliant	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unsure	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.(2) Sound	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4 (3) Complies with the Duty to co-operate	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

PLEASE SEE ACCOMPANYING PAPER

(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

6. Please set out the modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant and sound, in respect of any legal compliance or soundness matters you have identified at 5 above. (Please note that non-compliance with the duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why each modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

AS ABOVE

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(Continue on a separate sheet /expand box if necessary)

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**Please note** In your representation you should provide succinctly all the evidence and supporting information necessary to support your representation and your suggested modification(s). You should not assume that you will have a further opportunity to make submissions.

**After this stage, further submissions may only be made if invited by the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he or she identifies for examination.**

7. If your representation is seeking a modification to the plan, do you consider it necessary to participate in examination hearing session(s)?

☒

**No**, I do not wish to participate in hearing session(s)

☐

**Yes**, I wish to participate in hearing session(s)

Please note that while this will provide an initial indication of your wish to participate in hearing session(s), you may be asked at a later point to confirm your request to participate.

8. If you wish to participate in the hearing session(s), please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

**Please note** the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate in hearing session(s). You may be asked to confirm your wish to participate when the Inspector has identified the matters and issues for examination.

9. Signature:

Date:

13/07/21

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## LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

I wish to challenge the draft Local Plan on two fundamentals.

First, scratch the surface of the Local Plan and at once a quite shocking instance of top-down government is revealed. Central government has no business to intrude so repressively in local affairs of which it has scant knowledge, leaving domestic planners virtually powerless to stem the tide of unwanted so-called 'development'. The UK population has grown by approximately 6.7% over the past 10 years. This equates to a modest annual increase, conflated into a housing crisis which is claimed to justify a building free-for-all.

It was not always like this. Not so long ago Shepshed [REDACTED] had an independent council. I remember it well. The town's affairs were administered efficiently, economically and accessibly by a handful of officials. They all lived in Shepshed and ran the town for the evident benefit of their fellow townsfolk.

All that has now changed dramatically and not for the better. Over the past 40 years or more the powers of local government have been progressively eroded with disastrous consequences. Shepshed for example has mushroomed from a thriving community into a large dormitory town, its distinctive character lost forever. The preponderance of newcomers now work and spend elsewhere, showing little interest in town life.

Local government is indispensable for the welfare of the nation. The time is surely overdue for local government nationally to join forces to recover former responsibilities which it is uniquely positioned to fulfil.

Second, also underlying the Local Plan is an implicit assumption that growth is good. Again taking Shepshed as an example I suggest that growth invariably comes at a price. Around this town we have seen green fields disappearing with bewildering speed, with obvious implications for the environment and ultimately for the safety of the planet.

Infrastructure has manifestly failed to keep pace with growth, and whilst the Local Plan makes mention of extra schools there is no reference to surgeries or improvements to internal roads. I fail to understand the mentality that plans regardless of the social consequences. Shepshed's basic road structure has remained almost unchanged since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. To presume that it can absorb the proposed volume of traffic is simply untenable. The net result for residents to date is a marked reduction in quality of life with little to indicate any forthcoming variation in the downward cycle.

I suggest that it is the task – and indeed the duty – of the Local Plan not merely to throw up more houses but to create and foster communities of quality. Isn't that the essence of authentic democracy? I see no indication that the present proposals are headed this way. Indeed they look to be advancing firmly in the opposite direction.

L D Stevenson, [REDACTED]

PS

I expect that my submission will be dismissed as lying beyond the council's remit. That would be my point precisely. It shouldn't be!